レイン 3

◆原作 吉野 匠
（「レイン」アルファポリス刊）
◆漫画 住川 惠

BLADE COMICS

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Mag GARDEN

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マッグガーデン

ザーマインに勝利し、王女シェルファの施政が始まる!?
経験浅い若き姫君の裏で動く怪しい影、
そして新たにレイン達を襲う敵とは!!!
壮大な世界観で繰り広げられる、華麗なるファンタジー！
王国サンクワールが進む先にあるものは――。

レイン
3

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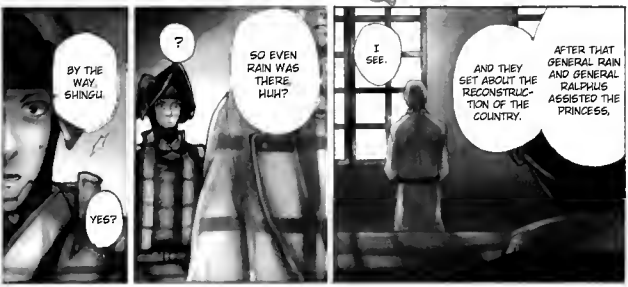
THIS IS ALL THE INFORMATION WE HAVE FROM SUNKWOLL.
CAPITAL ZAWAR IN THE NEIGHBORING COUNTRY SYANDRYS.
Syandrys
Zawar
Lydia
Sunkwoll

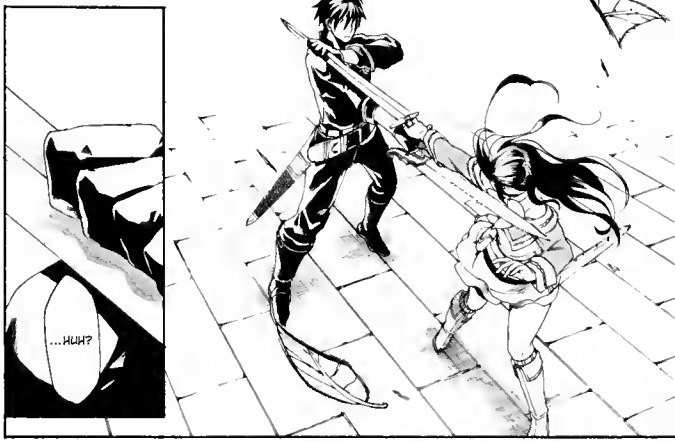

BY THE WAY, SHINGU.
YES?
?
SO EVEN RAIN WAS THERE, HUH?
I SEE.
AND THEY SET ABOUT THE RECONSTRUC-TION OF THE COUNTRY.
AFTER THAT GENERAL RAIN AND GENERAL RALPHUS ASSISTED THE PRINCESS.

Don't tell me ...
that you intend to go there yourself, your Excellency ...?!
I HEARD ABOUT THAT..
TO CHECK IF THEY'RE A WORTHY ALLY.
THAT'S WHY THERE'LL BE AN EMISSARY DISPATCHED SHORTLY.
HER MAJESTY IS CURRENTLY HESITATING AS TO WHETHER SHE SHOULD FORM AN ALLIANCE WITH SUNKWOLL.

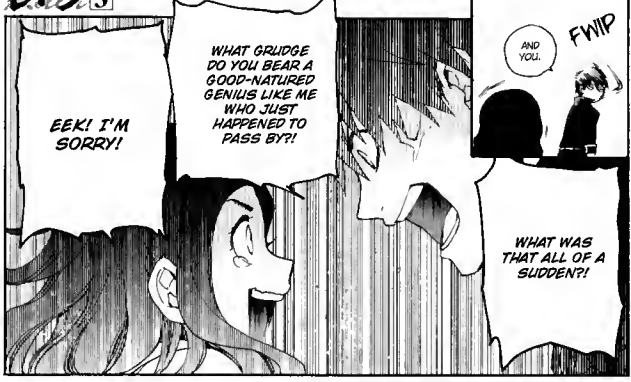
Chapter II
The Knight
of the Kingdom

Stomp
IN GALFORT CASTLE...
CAPITAL LYDIA IN THE KINGDOM SUNKWOLL
A QUALIFYING TEST FOR KNIGHTS IS GOING TO TAKE PLACE.
FINALLY...
.....

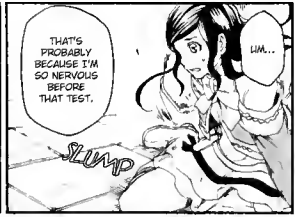
HMPH
YOU WILL BECOME A KNIGHT, SERAFINE!
In other words,
IF I FAIL, MY LIFE WILL BE OVER...
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
IF I PASS, FOOD, CLOTHING AND SHELTER ARE GUARANTEED.
MY MONEY IS JUST ENOUGH FOR A SINGLE MEAL, AND I DON'T HAVE A HOME.
Because I couldn't pay my rent
A BRAVE KNIGHT LIKE FATHER...!
step
SWISH

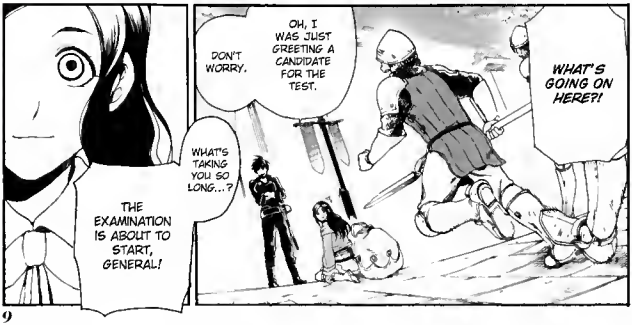

...HUH?

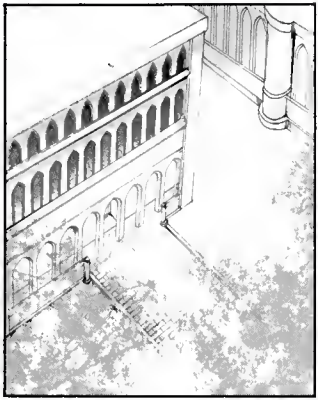
I'm so amazing!
I even master catching a naked sword with one hand now.
My brilliancy is frightening!
!?
U-UM, I DIDN'T MEAN TO...
I KNOW! I—I'M SOR...
That was danger ous...
AH?!


EEK! I'M SORRY!
WHAT GRUDGE DO YOU BEAR A GOOD-NATURED GENIUS LIKE ME WHO JUST HAPPENED TO PASS BY?!
AND YOU.
FWIP
WHAT WAS THAT ALL OF A SUDDEN?!

STOMP STOMP STOMP
OHO.
WHEN I SENSED YOUR PRESENCE, I SIMPLY OVERREACTED ...


UM...
THAT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE I'M SO NERVOUS BEFORE THAT TEST.
SLUMP


THE EXAMINATION IS ABOUT TO START, GENERAL!
WHAT'S TAKING YOU SO LONG...?
DON'T WORRY.
OH, I WAS JUST GREETING A CANDIDATE FOR THE TEST.
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?!



creak

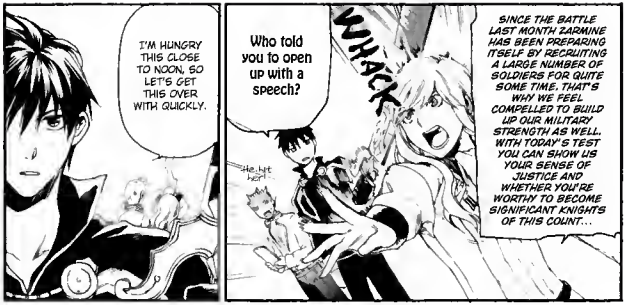
UH...

I'M DONE FOR...

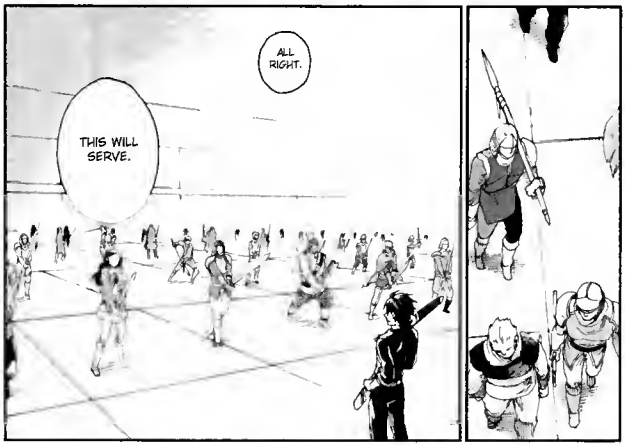
SHALL WE GO THEN?
GE...

FOLLOW ME.
MY EAGER EXAMINEE.
GENERAL ?!

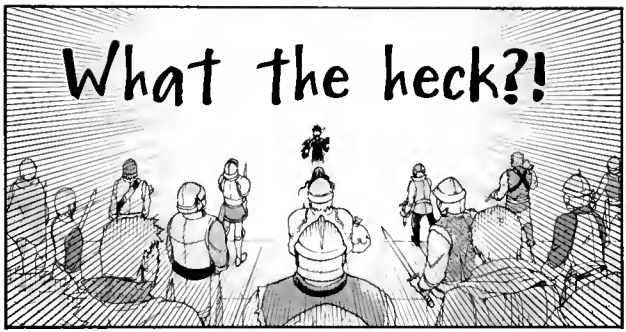
GENERAL!
IT'S HIGH TIME,
YOU'RE LATE!
jolt
EVERYBODY, ATTENTION PLEASE!
YES, SIR!
VERY WELL. I'LL LEAVE THE OPENING TO YOUR DISCRETION.
YOU'RE THE LAST ONE.
HERE YOU GO. THIS IS YOUR NUMBER PLATE.
Registering her name.
SUCH CONDUCT WILL CORRUPT THE DISCIPLINE INSIDE AND OUT!
AS LONG AS I'M ON TIME, IT'S FINE, ISN'T IT?


I'M HUNGRY THIS CLOSE TO NOON, SO LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH QUICKLY.
Who told you to open up with a speech?
WHACK
She hit her!
SINCE THE BATTLE LAST MONTH ZARMINE HAS BEEN PREPARING ITSELF BY RECRUITING A LARGE NUMBER OF SOLDIERS FOR QUITE SOME TIME. THAT'S WHY WE FEEL COMPELLED TO BUILD UP OUR MILITARY STRENGTH AS WELL. WITH TODAY'S TEST YOU CAN SHOW US YOUR SENSE OF JUSTICE AND WHETHER YOU'RE WORTHY TO BECOME SIGNIFICANT KNIGHTS OF THIS COUNT...

TURN TOWARDS ME AND HOLD YOUR WEAPONS AT THE READY.
buzz
buzz
EVERYBODY, STAND FOUR DEEP,


ALL RIGHT.
THIS WILL SERVE.

so take it up.
Okay. I'm going to pick a fight with you now.
WHA...
WHA...
IF YOU CAN DO THAT, YOU'LL PASS!


What the heck?!

I INTEND TO DISCHARGE YOU IN A WINK, SO BE READY.
Pat
WHAT I MEAN IS THAT YOU SHOULD SEE ME AS YOUR WORST ENEMY, AND TRY TO GIVE EVERYTHING YOU'VE GOT.

IF YOU CAN'T MEET ME RESOLUTELY,
consider yourself dead.

...HE'S THE ENEMY...
hah
I CAN'T LIKE HIM.

AND...

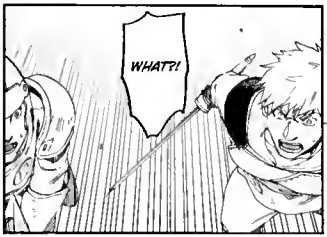
I MUSTN'T EVER AVERT MY EYES FROM MY OPPONENT!

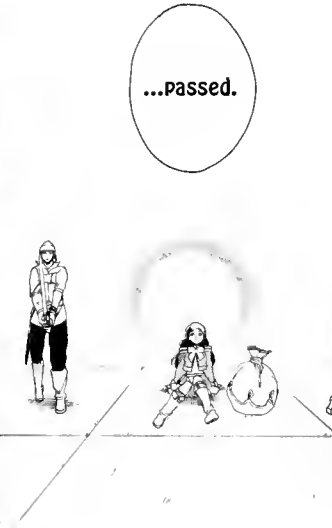
I MUSTN'T BE TENSE,
Step
I HAVE TO BE READY TO ATTACK ANY TIME,

WHOOSH
!!!
JOLT
JOLT
JOLT
NO...!
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
WIND ?!
MAGIC ?!

THUD
THIS PRESSURE.
I CAN'T TAKE IT ANY-MORE...!
WAS THAT...
A NORMAL FIGHTING FORCE...?!
clatter
CLAP
THAT'S IT!
HUH ...?
WHY DID I COLLAPSE?
?
THE PEOPLE WHO'RE EXHAUSTED NOW...
JOLT

...
HUH
...?

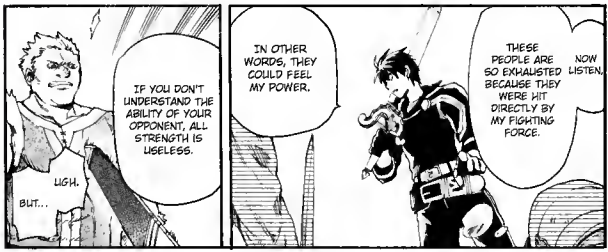

WHAT?!


...passed.

'COURSE, I AM!
ARE YOU DISPLEASED WITH MY TESTING METHOD, OR SOMETHING?

HEY, WHAT'S THIS SUPPOSED TO MEAN?!
WE'RE GOING TO CALL OUT THE NUMBERS, SO DON'T MOVE.

WHAT KIND OF TEST IS THIS IF YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE US FIGHT DIRECTLY?!
THERE'S NO WAY THESE GUYS WHO'RE TIED ALL OF A SUDDEN ARE STRONGER THAN ME!


IF YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND THE ABILITY OF YOUR OPPONENT, ALL STRENGTH IS USELESS.
UGH.
BUT...
IN OTHER WORDS, THEY COULD FEEL MY POWER.
THESE PEOPLE ARE SO EXHAUSTED BECAUSE THEY WERE HIT DIRECTLY BY MY FIGHTING FORCE.
NOW LISTEN.

CLENCH
!
I'M GOING TO HIT YOU NOW, SO TRY TO DEFEND YOURSELF.
IF YOU CAN DO THAT, YOU'LL PASS.
WELL THEN, LET ME CONVINCE YOU.
THAT'S EASY!
Clench
BRING IT ON...

Why?

rustle
crack
thud

RAIN!
HAS ANYONE ELSE OBJECTIONS, TOO?
SO,
SHAKA
SHAKA
SHAKA

WE JUST FINISHED,
IS THE TEST OVER?
Princess.
buzz
PRI...?!
SO, THIS IS OUR FUTURE QUEEN...
SO, DO YOU WANT ME FOR SOMETHING?
AH, NO,
PLEASE STAND AT EASE...
WHOOSH
jolt
PRINCESS SELVA?!

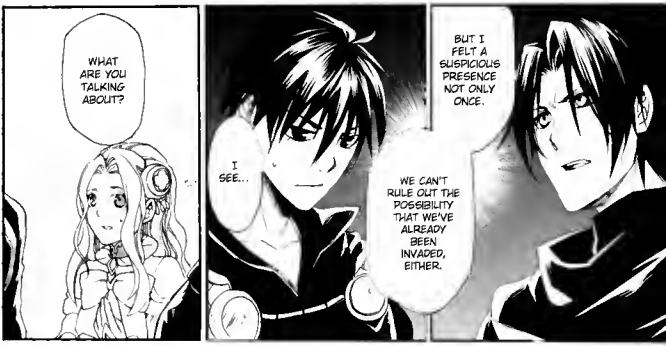
YES, SIR!
THEN, I'LL LEAVE NOW. PLEASE TAKE CARE OF THE REST.
AH!
THAT'S RIGHT.
GENERAL RALPHUS WISHES TO SPEAK WITH YOU.
HIM?
...AH.
HUH?
....
pat
UM,
I HAVE TO ASK HIM ABOUT THE QUARTERS ...!
I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU SOMETHING ...
HMM?

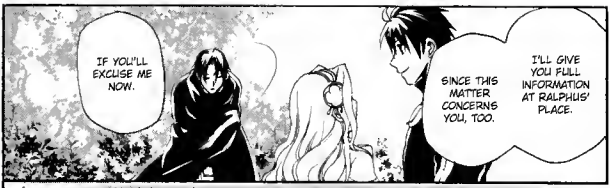
...HUH?
Come to my room later.

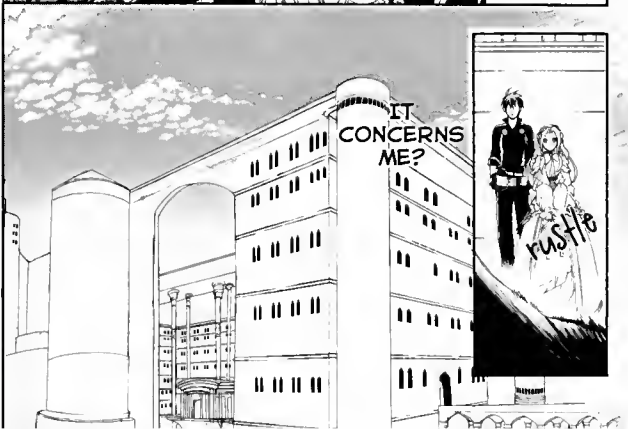
GOOD JOB, GÜNTER.
tilt
?!
WHAT?!
flutter flutter

DID ANYTHING UNUSUAL HAPPEN WHILE I WASN'T THERE?
I'D LIKE TO SAY...
THAT THERE WASN'T ANYTHING.

I'LL BE HERE FROM NOW,
SO YOU GO BACK TO INVESTIGATING THAT GUY FOR ME.
VERY WELL.

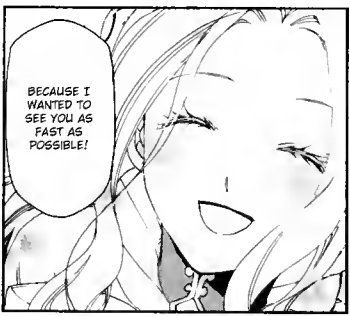

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
I SEE...
BUT I FELT A SUSPICIOUS PRESENCE NOT ONLY ONCE.
WE CAN'T RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT WE'VE ALREADY BEEN INVADED, EITHER.


IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME NOW.
SINCE THIS MATTER CONCERNS YOU, TOO.
I'LL GIVE YOU FULL INFORMATION AT RALPHUS' PLACE.


IT CONCERNS ME?
rush!!

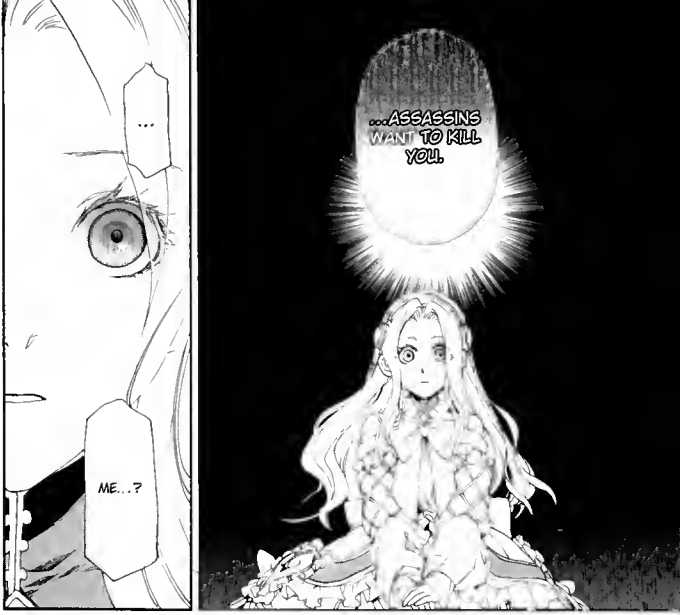
I'VE TROUBLED YOU TOO, PRINCESS...
NOT AT ALL.
WHAT WERE YOU THINKING USING YOUR LIEGE LADY AS A MESSENGER?
NO, I WENT TO GET YOU ON MY OWN ACCORD!
I'M SORRY FOR CALLING YOU.

...LITTLE ONE, YOU SHOULD REMEMBER TO ACT A LITTLE MORE LIKE A QUEEN.
We're with Ralphas, so it's okay, though.
YOUR CORONATION IS COMING UP, TOO.


BECAUSE I WANTED TO SEE YOU AS FAST AS POSSIBLE!

...I HATE TO SAY THIS, BUT...

SO, WHAT ABOUT THAT MATTER THAT CONCERNS ME, AS WELL?

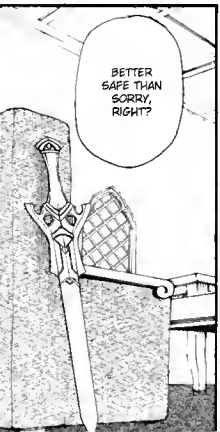

...
ME...?
...ASSASSINS WANT TO KILL YOU.

I BET THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO ARE AFTER YOU.
RAIN! YOU COULD HAVE SAID THIS DIFFERENTLY, TOO!
AND VARIOUS COUNTRIES WHICH ARE WAITING FOR A WEAKNESS DUE TO THE INTERNAL COLLAPSE...
FOR THE ARISTOCRACY WHICH SEEKS SUPREME POWER,
CURRENTLY, THERE'S ONLY ONE HEIRESS IN THIS COUNTRY.
IF YOU WERE TO VANISH TOO, THE THRONE WOULD BE OPEN.

ACCORDING TO WHAT GÜNTER TOLD ME THIS MORNING...
THE ASSASSIN GUILD WAS ASSIGNED TO IT...
YES ...
BUT WHO ON EARTH...?
I KNOW THAT THIS WAS BLUNT.
BUT IT'S THE TRUTH.
...WE MUST'NT SEE SUSPECTS IN EVERYONE.
ZAPHIR, THE LAST FAVOURITE OF THE KING WHO WAS NAMED ARMY COMMANDER WAS REMARKABLY QUIET, AS WELL.
OR GANOA WHO ESCAPED AFTER THE BATTLE LAST MONTH?
WAS IT ZARMINE, AFTER ALL?
DO YOU HAVE ANY CLUE ABOUT THE CLIENT?
NO.
NOT EVEN MY SECRET INVESTIGATION PROVIDED ANY FURTHER INFORMATION.
EVEN THOUGH THEY RETIRED INTO THEIR TERRITORIES THE SECOND THE KING DIED...
THAT WAS QUITE BRAZEN.
AMONG THESE INFLUENTIAL NOBLE FAMILIES THERE DEFINITELY
THE EASTERHEARTS, THE HARTOWERS, AND THE GERWELLS...
OPPOSED TO OUR PRINCESS, TOO.
THE LAST KING'S COUNCIL WHICH WAS BUILT ON NEPOTISM BROKE APART.

THEY'LL USE A DAY LIKE TODAY WHEN A LOT OF OUTSIDERS VISIT US.
IN ORDER NOT TO BE CAPTURED,
SO, WE DON'T KNOW IF THE ENEMY IS WITHIN THE COUNTRY OR OUTSIDE...
THAT'D BE CLEVER...
GÜNTER FELT A SUSPICIOUS PRESENCE, TOO.
THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT THEY WANT TO SEE HOW THINGS STAND AT CLOSE RANGE.
I DIDN'T NOTICE HIM AT ALL...
THAT'S WHY I'VE HAD GÜNTER FOLLOWING YOU SINCE YESTERDAY.
...DON'T WORRY.
pat
clench

SO,
LEAVE EVERYTHING TO THIS GENIUS HERE!
I'LL BE YOUR PERSONAL GUARD FOR NOW.
...OKAY!

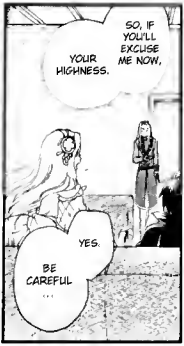

BETTER SAFE THAN SORRY, RIGHT?

NOW?
I'LL GO AND MAKE MY ROUNDS THEN.
THE CHANCES ARE SLIM, BUT THERE MAY BE SIGNS OF AN INVASION.

EVEN IF YOU SAY SO, YOU WORK DAY AND NIGHT TOO, DON'T YOU?
IT WASN'T YOUR DUTY TO RISK SO MUCH BECAUSE OF THOSE GUYS WHO ESCAPED, EITHER.

BESIDES, I FEEL BAD ABOUT ALWAYS LEAVING STUFF LIKE THAT TO YOU.
clink

IT WASN'T LIKE THAT.
I DID IT BECAUSE WE WERE SHORT OF MEN, YOU SEE.

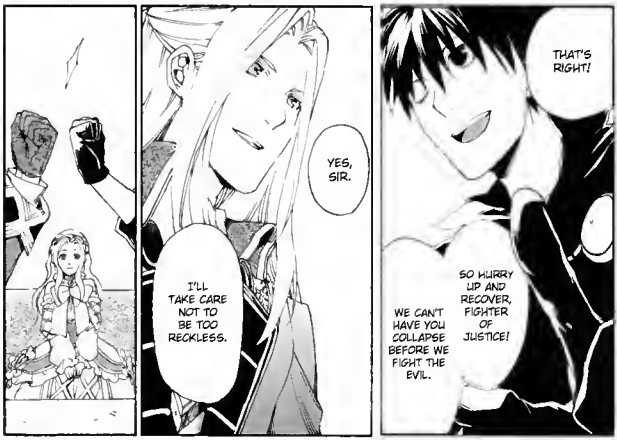

SO, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME NOW, YOUR HIGHNESS.
YES.
BE CAREFUL ...

IT WON'T INTERFERE WITH STATE AFFAIRS.

HMM?
RALPHUS.
CROSS
CRE AK

WHOOSH
clank
UGH.
YOU'RE SLOWER IN MOVEMENT THAN USUAL, AFTER ALL.
thud
slash
IT SEEMS YOU GOT USED TO HANDLING THE DEMON SWORD THOUGH...
YES.
IT MIGHT BE A LITTLE LATE FOR THIS, BUT IS IT REALLY OKAY?
FOR ME TO HAVE THIS.
SURE.
SINCE IT DOESN'T FIT ME.

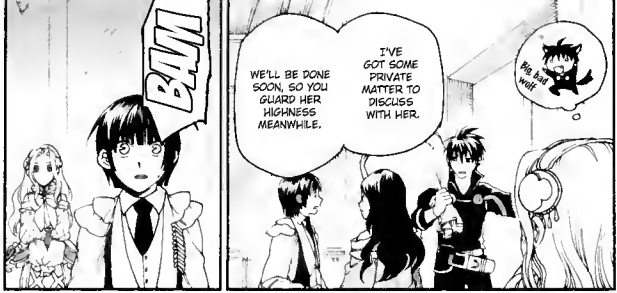
THE SIGNATURE "JUSTICE" IS MORE SUITABLE FOR YOU THAN FOR LEYGUR OR ME.
THE LEGACY OF KING LEYGUR,
THE DEMON SWORD "JUSTICE."
IT'S TRUE THAT YOU'RE THE LAST PERSON I'D CALL A FIGHTER OF JUSTICE.


I'LL TAKE CARE NOT TO BE TOO RECKLESS.
YES, SIR.
WE CAN'T HAVE YOU COLLAPSE BEFORE WE FIGHT THE EVIL.
SO HURRY UP AND RECOVER, FIGHTER OF JUSTICE!
THAT'S RIGHT!

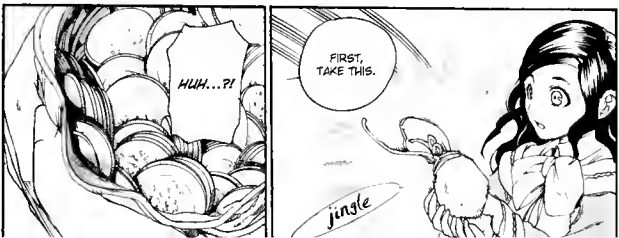
I'M GOING TO HAVE LUNCH AFTERWARDS. SHALL WE EAT TOGETHER?
I STILL HAVE A MINOR BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO.
LET'S EAT AFTER I'VE TAKEN CARE OF IT, OKAY?
I WAITED AND WAITED,
BUT HE NEVER CAME.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
EEK!
IF I CAN'T GET INTO THE QUARTERS STARTING TODAY I HAVE TO SEARCH FOR A PLACE IN THE OPEN WHERE I CAN SLEEP.
I HAVE TO GO BUY SOME BREAD, TOO.
PAT
I'M YURI.
I'M AN APPRENTICE KNIGHT, TOO.
NICE TO MEET YOU!
I'M AN APPRENTICE KNIGHT STARTING TODAY...
UM.
OH.
AND WHO ARE YOU?
I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU HERE BEFORE.
AH, RIGHT.
YES.
MY NAME IS SERAFINE.
Phew
THE TEST WAS TODAY, WASN'T IT?

YOU SEE...
WHAT WERE YOU DOING IN FRONT OF A MAN'S ROOM?
...SO...
THERE ARE ONLY A FEW GIRLS HERE, SO I'M REALLY HAPPY.
THAT'S ABSOLUTELY FISHY!
YOU HAVE TO RUN, SERAFINE!
YOU'RE PRETTY CUTE,
THE GENERAL CALLED YOU HERE?!
DON'T BE SO LOUD, YURI!
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN, YOU PEEPING TOM?
THERE HE IS, THE BIG, BAD WOLF.
Who's going to attack whom?
SO HE'LL DEFINITELY ATTACK YOU!

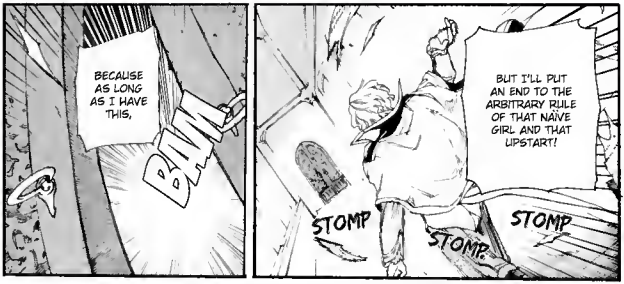

BAM
WE'LL BE DONE SOON, SO YOU GUARD HER HIGHNESS MEANWHILE.
I'VE GOT SOME PRIVATE MATTER TO DISCUSS WITH HER.
No, bad wolf!

AH.
boly
THANK YOU VERY MUCH...
NOT AT ALL...
flurtle flurtle
SO,
WHY DID YOU CALL ME HERE?

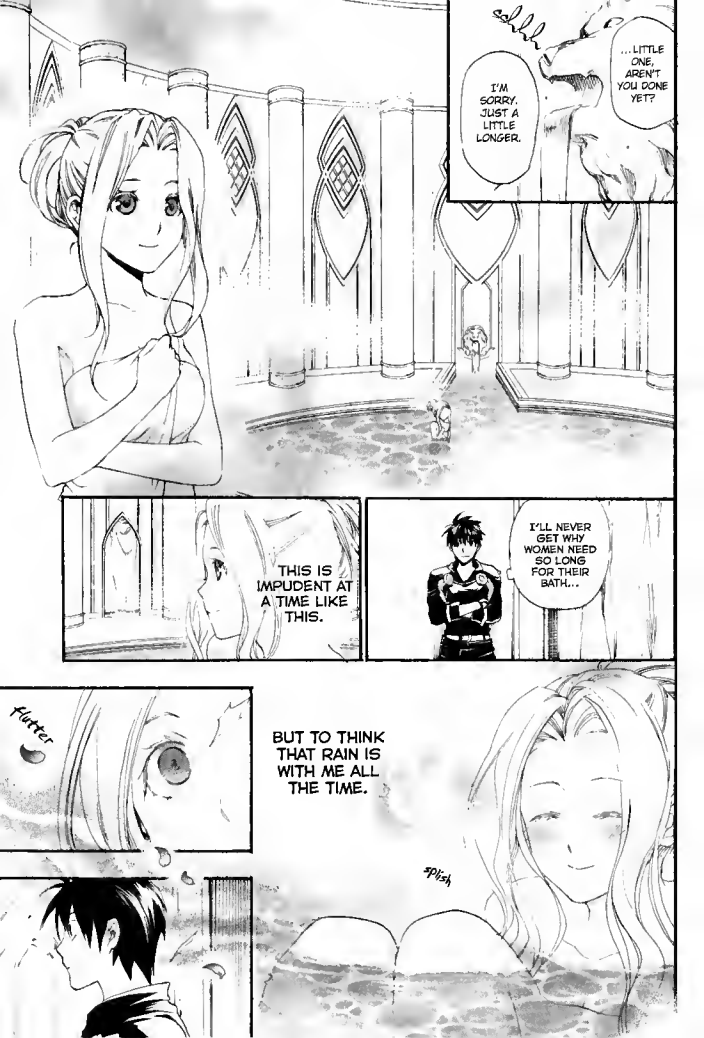

HUH...?!
FIRST, TAKE THIS.
jingle

Well,
YOU CAME TO THAT TEST WITH THIS MUCH BAGGAGE EVEN THOUGH YOU DIDN'T KNOW IF YOU'LL PASS...
YOU DON'T HAVE A PLACE TO SLEEP TONIGHT EITHER, DO YOU?
HOW DID YOU KNOW?
I GIVE YOU AN ADVANCE ON YOUR PAYMENT.
YOUR LIFE IS ROUGH RIGHT NOW, ISN'T IT?
IS THAT OKAY?
THIS IS A SPECIAL CASE.
...BUT...
AND EVEN IF IT WENT FAST, IT'D TAKE FIVE DAYS.
THE PROCEDURE TO GET INTO THE QUARTERS FOR APPRENTICES IS COMPLICATED,
SO BE GRATEFUL AND WORK FOR ME WITH ALL YOUR MIGHT.
BUT WELL, IN MY UNIT I'M THE LAW.
HAVE BEEN THE REASON FOR HIS COMING LATE...?
COULD THIS...
I WAS BEING YELLED AT BY A NOISY STICKLER FOR PRINCIPLES FOR MAKING AN EXCEPTION THOUGH...
IF YOU AREN'T STRICT WITH OTHERS, THEY WON'T RESPECT YOU!

I WILL BECOME A BRAVE KNIGHT.
YES, SIR.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
I'LL DO MY BEST...
UNDER THIS MAN.
MEANWHILE IN THE NORTH OF SUNKWOLL:
HMPH... A QUALIFYING TEST FOR KNIGHTS...?
THE COMMONERS WILL LOVE THEM FOR THIS.
SCrunch


BECAUSE AS LONG AS I HAVE THIS,
BUT I'LL PUT AN END TO THE ARBITRARY RULE OF THAT NAÏVE GIRL AND THAT UPSTART!
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP

THIS COUNTRY IS MINE ...!


shhh
...LITTLE ONE, AREN'T YOU DONE YET?
I'M SORRY. JUST A LITTLE LONGER.
THIS IS IMPUDENT AT A TIME LIKE THIS.
I'LL NEVER GET WHY WOMEN NEED SO LONG FOR THEIR BATH...
flutter
BUT TO THINK THAT RAIN IS WITH ME ALL THE TIME.
splish

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Chapter 12
The Day of the Presentation

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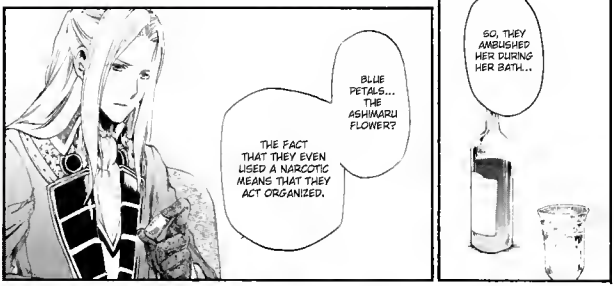
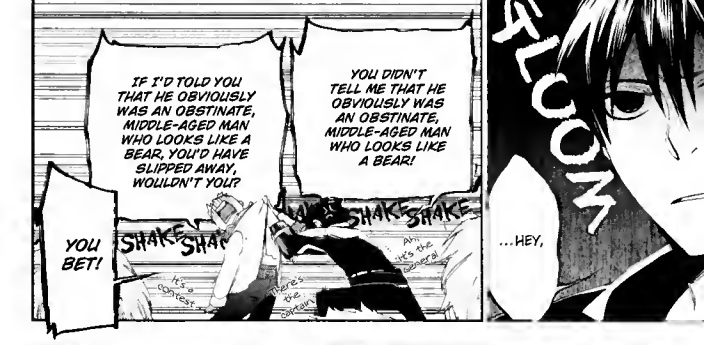

BLUE PETALS... THE ASHIMARU FLOWER?
THE FACT THAT THEY EVEN USED A NARCOTIC MEANS THAT THEY ACT ORGANIZED.
SO, THEY AMBUSHED HER DURING HER BATH...

OUR LITTLE ONE IS STILL IN THE LAND OF DREAMS, TOO.
I ENTRUSTED GÜNTER WITH GUARDING HER.
I'LL GO BACK TO HER RIGHT AFTER OUR BRIEFING.
THEY'RE STILL IN THE COMMUNAL CELL, UNCONSCIOUS.
WHAT ABOUT THE CAPTIVES?

WHAT DO YOU WANT, LENI?
I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF AN IMPORTANT CONVERSATION.
SAYS THE MAN WITH A BOTTLE OF BOOZE IN HIS HAND?
KNOCK KNOCK
MAY I DISTURB OUR GENERAL?
HUH?
THANK YOU.
THEN, I'LL QUESTION THE INTRUDERS.
THAT WOULD BE BEST, I SUPPOSE.

swoosh
THERE'S A VISITOR AT THE CASTLE GATE!
HE SAYS THAT HE HAS A SPECIAL MATTER TO DISCUSS WITH THE GENERAL!
SORRY, SORRY! I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING!
nudge nudge nudge nudge nudge
SO, YOU WANTED SOMETHING OF RAIN?
THAT'S RIGHT!
GLOOM
buzz buzz buzz


IF I'D TOLD YOU THAT HE OBVIOUSLY WAS AN OBSTINATE, MIDDLE-AGED MAN WHO LOOKS LIKE A BEAR, YOU'D HAVE SLIPPED AWAY, WOULDN'T YOU?
YOU DIDN'T TELL ME THAT HE OBVIOUSLY WAS AN OBSTINATE, MIDDLE-AGED MAN WHO LOOKS LIKE A BEAR!
YOU BET!
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE
Ah, he's the boss!
It's correct!
There's the shower!
...HEY,
BLOOM

THIS MAN SAYS THAT HE WISHES TO BE A KNIGHT.
AND EVEN THOUGH I TOLD HIM THAT THE TEST WAS OVER, HE WAS ADAMANT ABOUT MEETING YOU.
OHO.
I'M SORRY TO TROUBLE YOU, BUT COULD YOU PLEASE TELL HIM DIRECTLY?

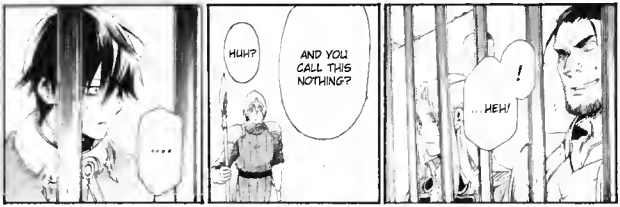
...WELL, THIS BRINGS BACK MEMORIES.
She
THE TEST WAS FINISHED LONG AGO.
DON'T CAUSE ANY UNNECESSARY TROUBLE.
HEY, OLD MAN!

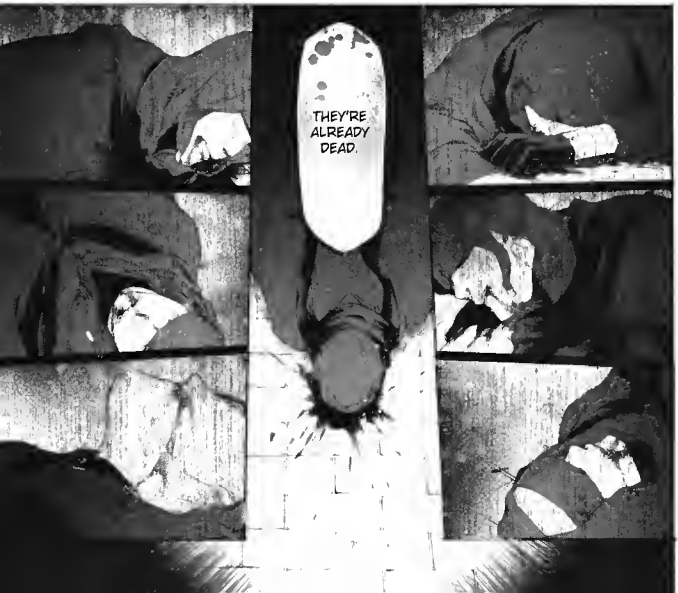
Y... YOU...
!
RAIN.
YOU HAVEN'T IMPROVED YOUR MANNERS IN ALL THESE TEN YEARS,
YEAH, FROM WAY BACK.
DO YOU KNOW EACH OTHER?
HELLO!
GAZA-RAM?!
FANUJU ?!
YES.
AFTER YOU'D RESIGNED FROM YOUR POST AS COMMANDER OF THE KNIGHTLY ORDER OF FANUJU, YOU JOINED THEIR GUARD, DIDN'T YOU?

I WAS DISMISSED FROM MY POST AS CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD, TOO.
SCRATCH
THAT WAS LONG AGO.
WANT TO JOIN OUR ARMY...?
WHY WOULD THE FORMER COMMANDER OF THEIR KNIGHTLY ORDER...
buzz
ISN'T THAT THE COUNTRY WHERE THEY HAVE THE MERIT SYSTEM JUST LIKE IN ZARMINE?
I'M ALREADY 55.
I GUESS IT'D BE BEST TO RETIRE, BUT...
I COME OF A FAMILY LINE OF KNIGHTS, AND I'VE BEEN FIGHTING WITH A SWORD EVER SINCE I WAS LITTLE.
I CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE LIVING A DIFFERENT LIFE.
I WANT TO DIE ON THE BATTLE-FIELD.
I'VE ALWAYS MADE IT A PRINCIPLE NEVER TO DO ANYTHING FUTILE.
GAZARAM,
TRY ME! I'M SURE MY STRENGTH IS...
I KNOW THAT I'M OLD, BUT I CAN STILL FIGHT!

P... PLEASE WAIT, GENERAL!
CALLING IT FUTILE IS A BIT HARSH, ISN'T IT?
BUT IT IS FUTILE.
TO TEST HIM.
WELL, GAZARAM,
WE HAVE THE MERIT SYSTEM HERE TOO, YOU KNOW?
CAPTAIN WORTH-A-THOUSAND-MEN, UNDER SUNKWOLL'S ARMY COMMANDER RAIN.
...ANY COMPLAINTS?
...AH!
THUD

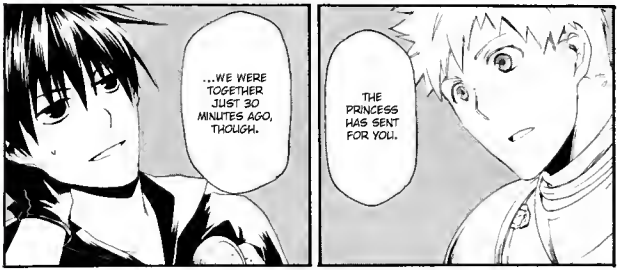
Yeah
DON'T BE SO FORMAL. THAT'S CREEPY.
... I'M COUNTING ON YOU, GAZARAM.
YES, SIR.
MILORD!
I'LL NEVER FORGET YOUR KINDNESS,
NO, SIR. NOTHING.
ANYTHING UNUSUAL?
WE'RE HERE TO QUESTION THE INTRUDERS WHO WERE CAUGHT BY RAIN.
GOOD JOB.


....
HUH?
AND YOU CALL THIS NOTHING?
!
...HEH!


THEY'RE ALREADY DEAD.

TEN DAYS PASSED IN CONSTANT UNEASINESS.
IT'S THE DAY BEFORE THE CORONATION...
WHEN PRINCESS SELVA WAS GOING TO HAVE HER FIRST APPEARANCE IN THE CAPITAL LYDIA.
AH! YOU'RE DRINKING AGAIN THIS EARLY IN THE MORNING!
tap
tap
tap
clatter

EVEN IF I DRINK, I NEVER GET DRUNK. THE PRINCESS IS IN THE MIDDLE OF CHANGING, TOO.
Yenna kicked me out.
RIGHT ...
THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY.
SINCE WE CAN NEVER KNOW WHERE SUSPICIOUS CHARACTERS MIGHT BE HIDING.
YOU AREN'T ONLY A SLACKER, BUT ALSO A DRUNKARD ...
PLEASE GET A GRIP ON YOURSELF.


...WE WERE TOGETHER JUST 30 MINUTES AGO, THOUGH.
THE PRINCESS HAS SENT FOR YOU.

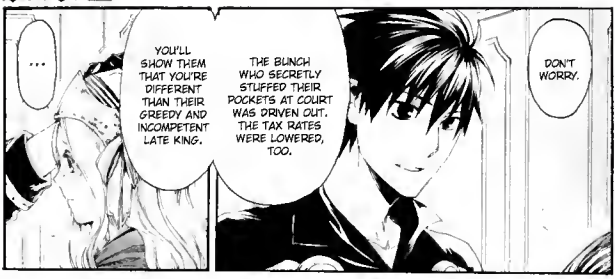
OH, THERE COMES THE LADY-KILLER.
HER HIGHNESS IS AWAITING YOU.
clack

I'M SORRY FOR CALLING YOU.
tap
THAT'S OKAY, BUT...
IS SOMETHING THE MATTER?

YOU SEE...
I... CAN'T SEEM... TO STOP TREMBLING ...

I KNOW THAT MY FATHER ENGAGED IN NEPOTISM WITH THE ARISTOCRACY ...
SO I WAS WONDERING...IF THEY'LL ACCEPT HIS DAUGHTER AS THEIR NEW RULER.

RAIN..


...
YOU'LL SHOW THEM THAT YOU'RE DIFFERENT THAN THEIR GREEDY AND INCOMPETENT LATE KING.
THE BUNCH WHO SECRETLY STUFFED THEIR POCKETS AT COURT WAS DRIVEN OUT. THE TAX RATES WERE LOWERED, TOO.
DON'T WORRY.

YOUR SPEECH THE OTHER DAY WAS NICELY DONE THOUGH, WASN'T IT?
BUT!
!
ARE YOU STILL SCARED OF MAKING YOUR APPEARANCE IN FRONT OF MANY PEOPLE?

THAT WAS BECAUSE YOU WERE AT MY SIDE...
jingle

I'LL BE BY YOU TODAY, TOO.
I'M GOING TO RIDE NEXT TO THE CARRIAGE ON CHRIS.
AND IF YOU STILL FEEL UNEASY, TOUCH THIS.

I'VE...
BEEN WORRYING EVER SINCE I USED THE OTHER ONE.
I'M SO HAPPY ...!

IT'S ONE OF THE ONLY TWO MAGICAL COINS IN THIS WORLD.
IT'S THE LAST REAL THING.

THIS IS...!

LITTLE ONE.
THERE'S SOMETHING I HAVE TO TELL YOU.

YOU KNOW THAT THAT ASSASSIN GUILD..
WON'T GIVE UP LIKE THAT, DON'T YOU?
YES...

I DON'T WANT TO ALARM YOU, BUT...
IT'LL BE THE PERFECT CHANCE FOR THEM WHEN THEIR TARGET LEAVES THE CLOSELY GUARDED CASTLE.
IF I WERE THEM, I'D DEFINITELY STRIKE TODAY.
DO YOU UNDER-STAND WHAT THAT MEANS?

OKAY.

I'M GOING TO USE YOU AS BAIT TO LURE THOSE GUYS OUT.

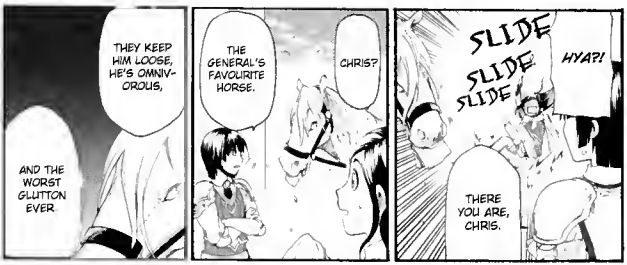
NO, YOU SHOULDN'T BE "OKAY" WITH IT...
BUT ANGRY OR SCARED ABOUT IT.
BUT WHY?

YOU WARNED ME THAT YOU'D USE ME AS A DECOY,
KNOWING THAT IT'S DANGEROUS.
SINCE YOU'LL BE AT MY SIDE, I'M SURE THAT YOU'LL PROTECT ME RESOLUTELY, WON'T YOU?

pam
pam
YES,
OF COURSE.

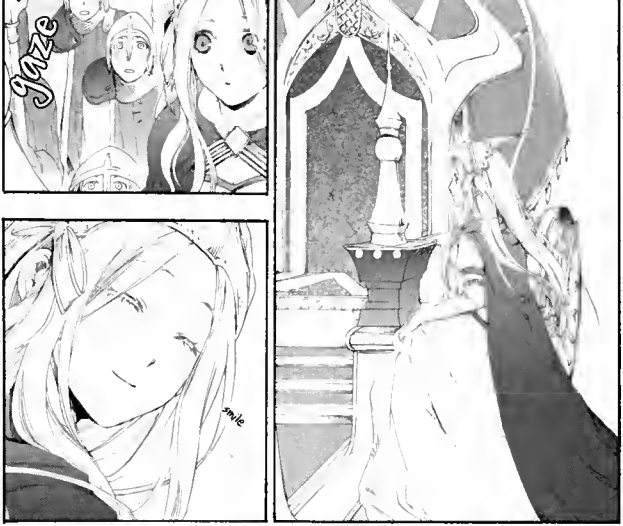
AH, I'M SO DISAP-POINTED!
WHAT KIND OF PRESEN-TATION IS THIS? THERE AREN'T EVEN ANY STALLS, EITHER.
INSTEAD OF SPENDING SO MUCH MONEY ON THIS, THEY SHOULD RATHER TAKE SOME MEANINGFUL POLITICAL MEASURES OR SOMETHING.
YOU THINK SO?
PUBLICITY IN ITSELF ISN'T A BAD THING, IS IT?
IT'S A PROBLEM THAT SHE'S UNARMED, THOUGH.
BUT SINCE LORD RAIN IS WITH HER, SHE'LL BE ALL RIGHT!
WHAT?
SERAFINE, DO YOU HAVE A CRUSH ON HIM?
SLIDE
SLIDE
SLIDE
N-N-NO, I-I-I HAVEN'T!

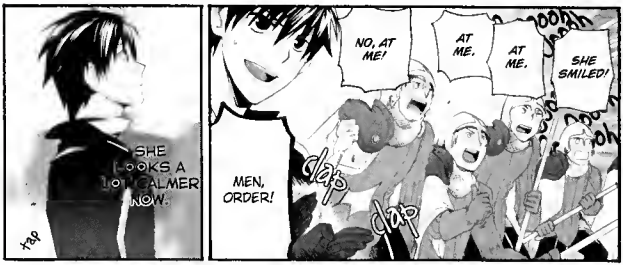
...Y?
BUMP
EEK!
I'M SORR ...


THEY KEEP HIM LOOSE, HE'S OMNIV-OROUS,
AND THE WORST GLUTTON EVER.
THE GENERAL'S FAVOURITE HORSE.
CHRIS?
SLIDE SLIDE SLIDE
HYA?!
THERE YOU ARE, CHRIS.

YOU UNDER-STAND HIM, YURI...?
Chris does, too?
I DON'T HAVE ANY BREAD FOR YOU.
YOU WANT ME TO GIVE YOU SOME-THING?
WHAT IS IT, HORSE?
NUZZLE

A PEGASUS ...
BUT THAT'S A BAD JOKE.
HE CLAIMS THAT THIS HORSE IS A PEGASUS...
I'M NOT LIKE THE GENERAL.
NO WAY!
BUZZ
BUZZ
IT'S ABOUT TIME NOW, I GUESS.
LOOK, WE BOTH MUSTN'T LET DOWN OUR GUARD.
pretending ignorance
ehehehe


gaze
smile


SHE LOOKS A LOT CALMER NOW.
tap
MEN, ORDER!
NO, AT ME!
AT ME,
AT ME,
SHE SMILED!
clap
clap

I'VE GOT NEWS.
GENERAL RAIN,

MY SUBORDINATES IDENTIFIED HIS BANNER, SO THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT.
THAT MAN MADE A MOVE.
ABOUT THE PEOPLE OF THE GUILD?
NO.
whisper
UNDER-STOOD.
AS FOR THE CONTENT ...
AND LEAVE A NOTE.
THEN WE HAVE TO ...
whisper
... WELL,
I HAVE THEM WATCHED FOR NOW,
BUT HOW SHOULD WE PROCEED?
YES, SIR.
IF ANYTHING OCCURS, INFORM ME THROUGH MAGICAL TRANSMIS-SION.
YOU ALL RETURN TO YOUR POSTS.
I'LL MAKE PREPARA-TIONS INSIDE THE CASTLE.
TURN

RAIN, WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT...?
IT'S SOMETHING I DON'T WANT TO BOTHER YOU WITH NOW.
clop

OUR "RENDEZVOUS" IS MORE IMPORTANT RIGHT NOW.
BE-SIDES,
BECAUSE KNOWING IT WOULD MAKE ME FEEL BAD, I GUESS...

THE USUAL ROUTE IS A RIDE THROUGH THE CAPITAL.
...ARE YOU STILL SHY OF DOING IT?
BLUSH
IT'LL BE EASIER FOR YOU IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT THAT WAY, WON'T IT?
....
RENDEZ ...?!

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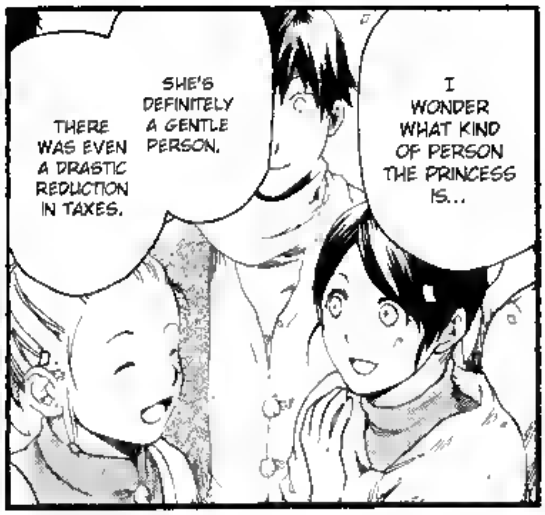
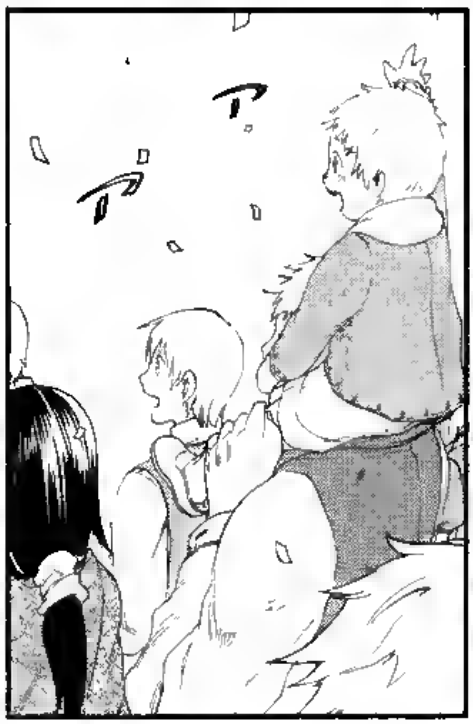
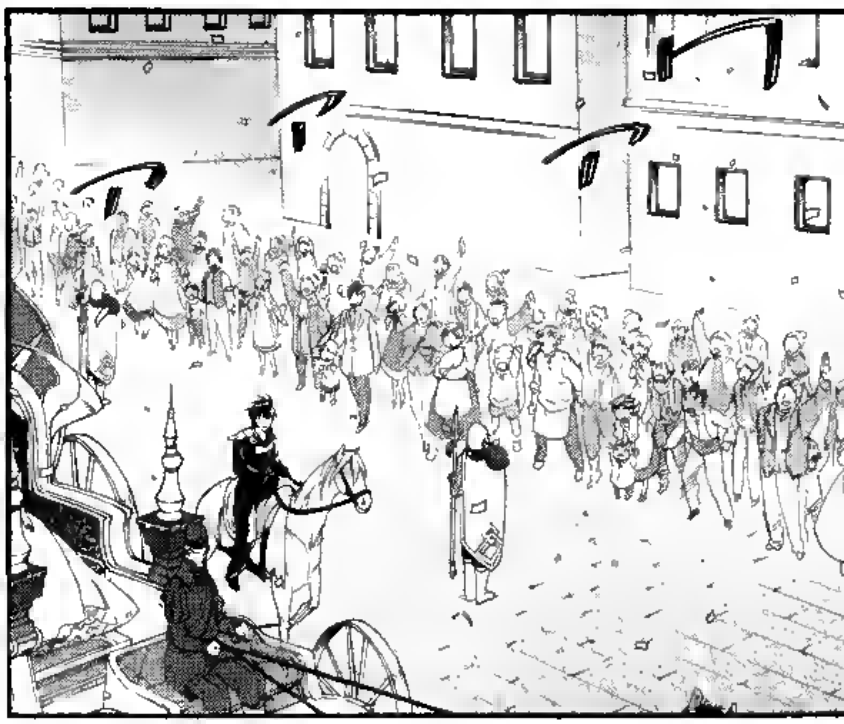
CHAPTER 13.
FOREBODING OF A COMING STORM

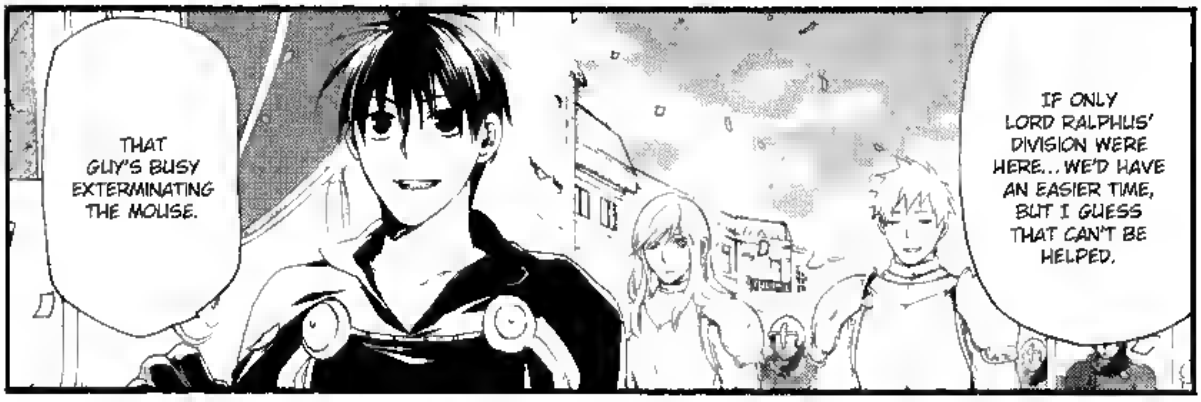


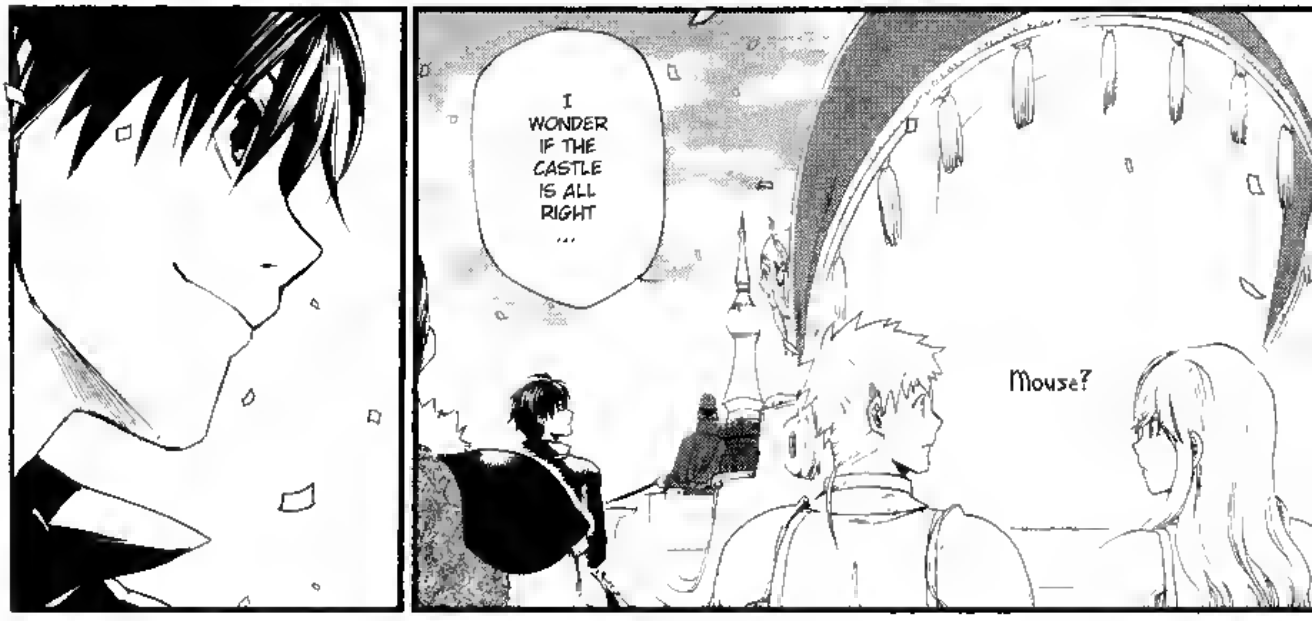
A GOD-DESS !!!

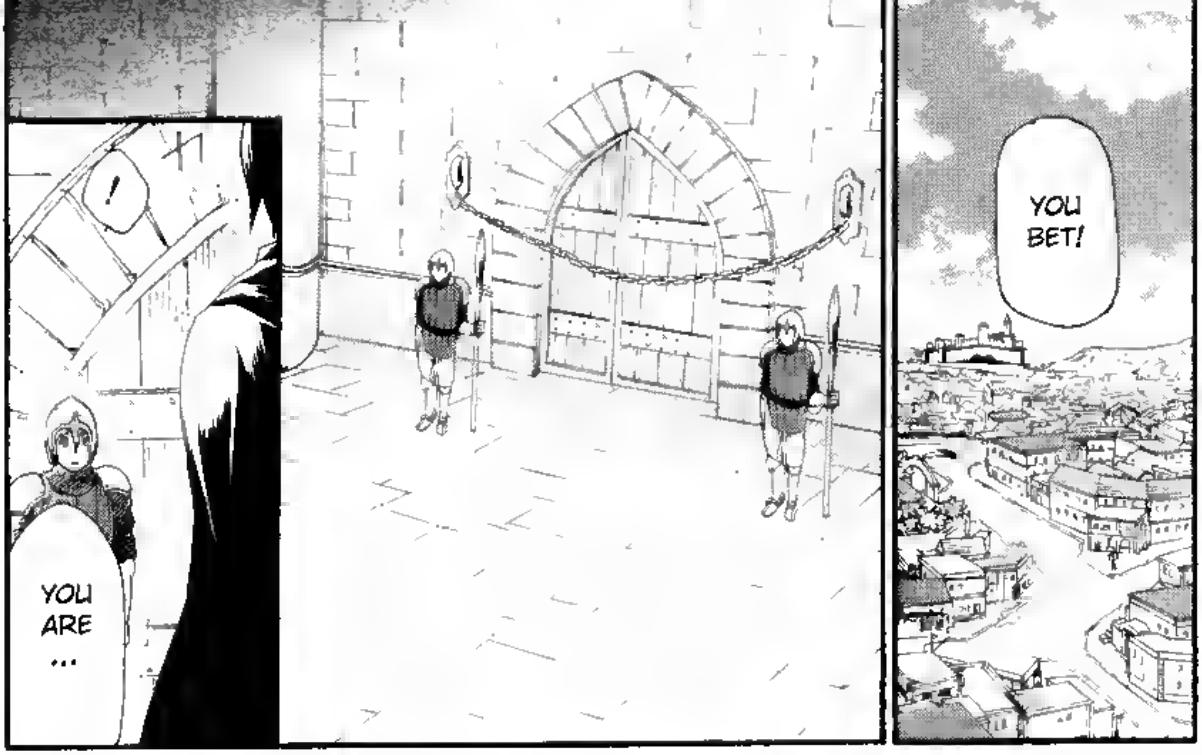


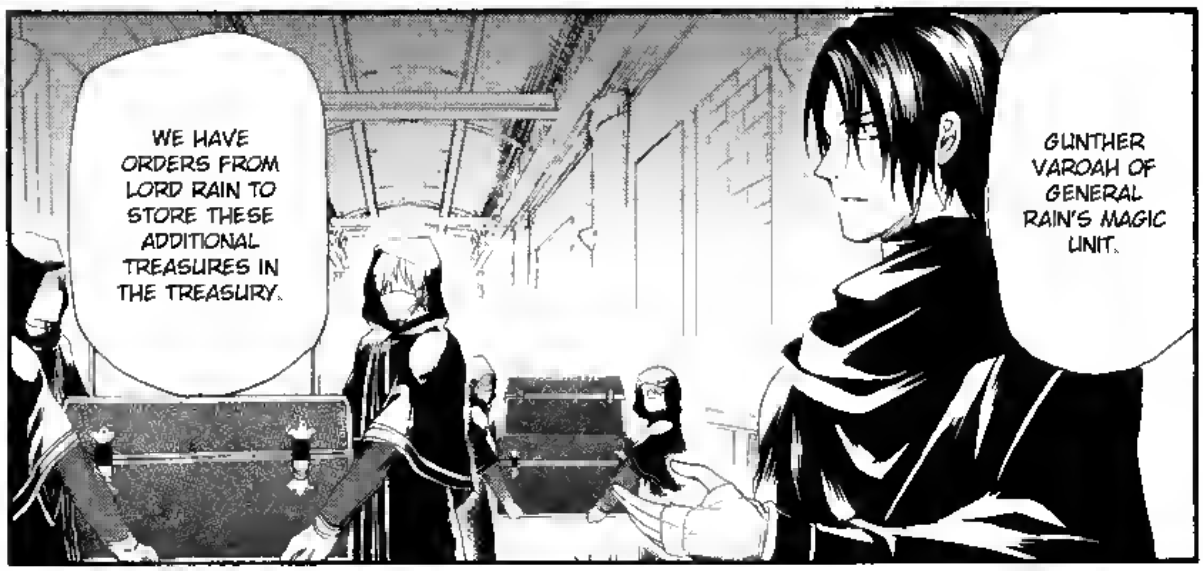


WELL, AS EXPECTED FROM THE PRINCESS!
I THOUGHT THAT THEY'D TRY TO CUT THROUGH THE GUARDS, BUT...
BECAUSE YOU'RE SO POPULAR, THE GUARDS ARE HAVING A HARD TIME.


IF ONLY LORD RALPHUS' DIVISION WERE HERE... WE'D HAVE AN EASIER TIME, BUT I GUESS THAT CAN'T BE HELPED.
THAT GUY'S BUSY EXTERMINATING THE MOUSE.


I WONDER IF THE CASTLE IS ALL RIGHT ...
Mouse?

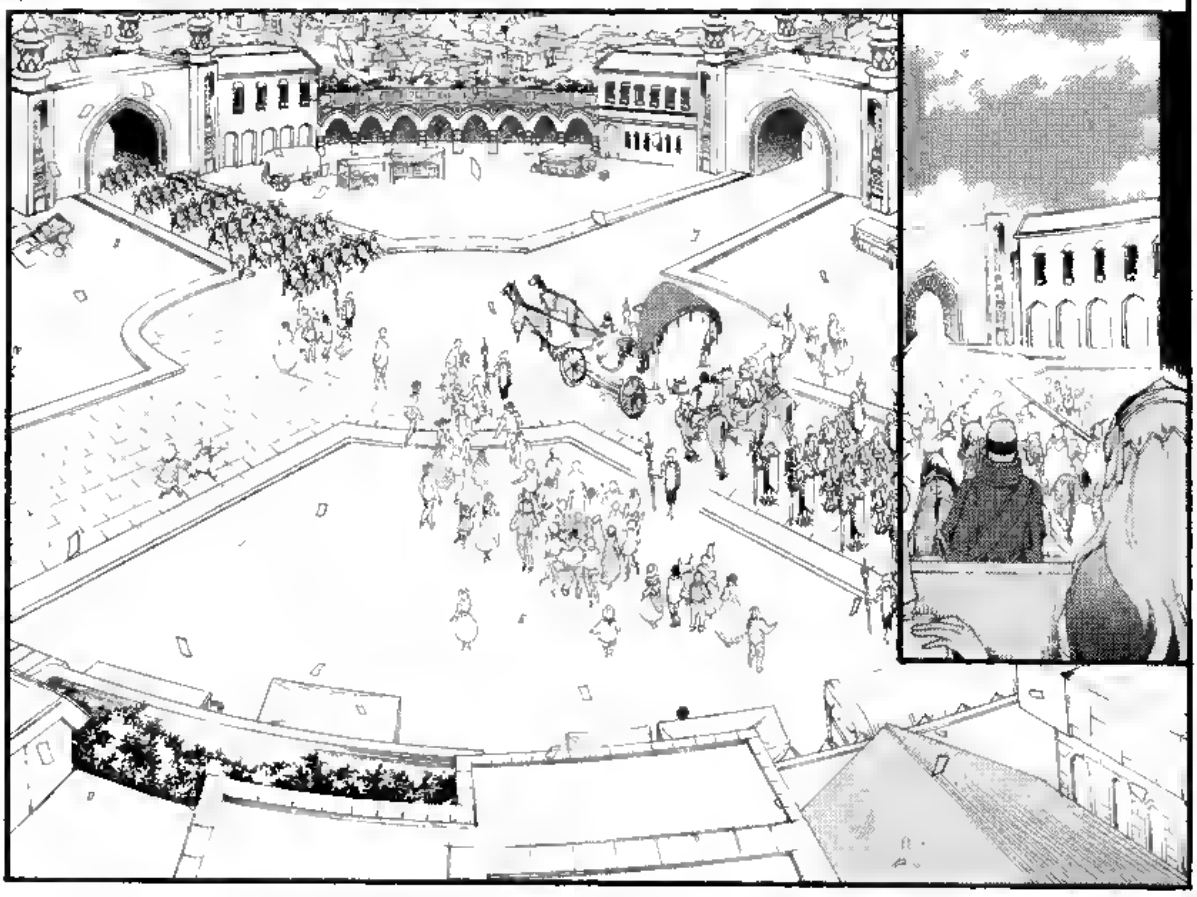

!
YOU ARE ...
YOU BET!


WE HAVE ORDERS FROM LORD RAIN TO STORE THESE ADDITIONAL TREASURES IN THE TREASURY.
GUNTHER VAROAH OF GENERAL RAIN'S MAGIC UNIT.

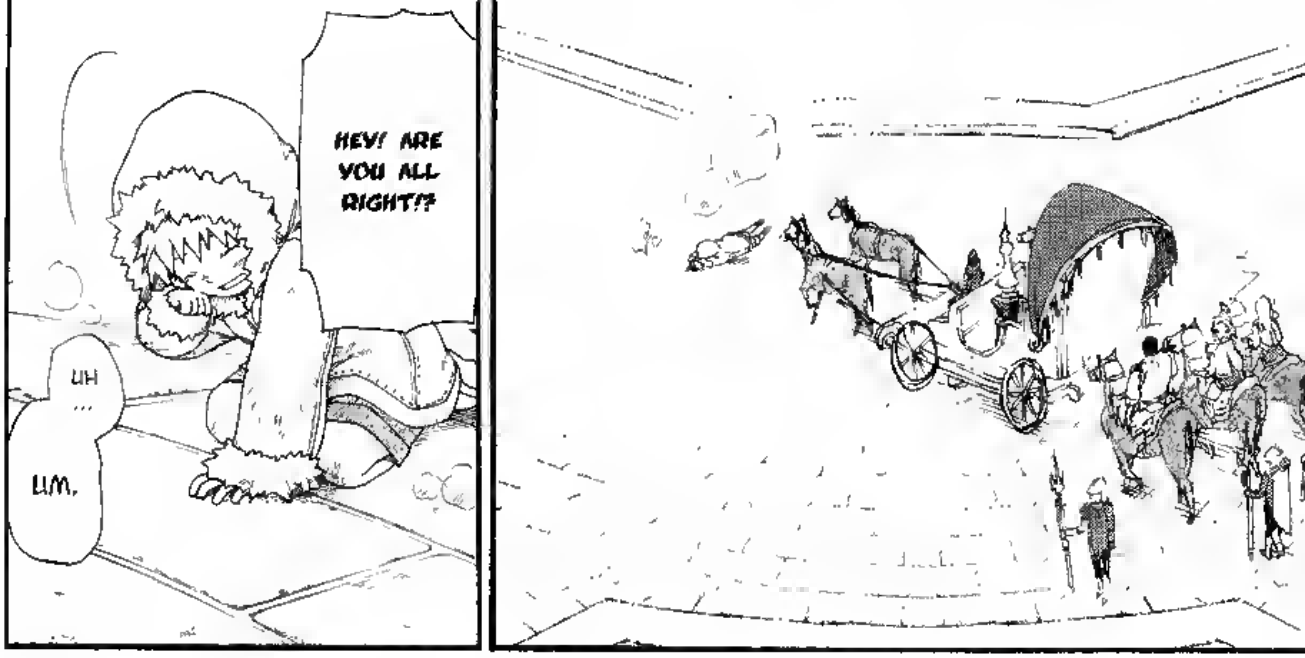
YOU'RE SOMEWHAT RIGHT.
THERE'S A PRETTY UNIQUE... NO... INTENSE SMELL. ARE THESE SPICES?
THESE ARE ...
YES SIR!
PLEASE ALLOW US TO INSPECT THE CONTENTS.

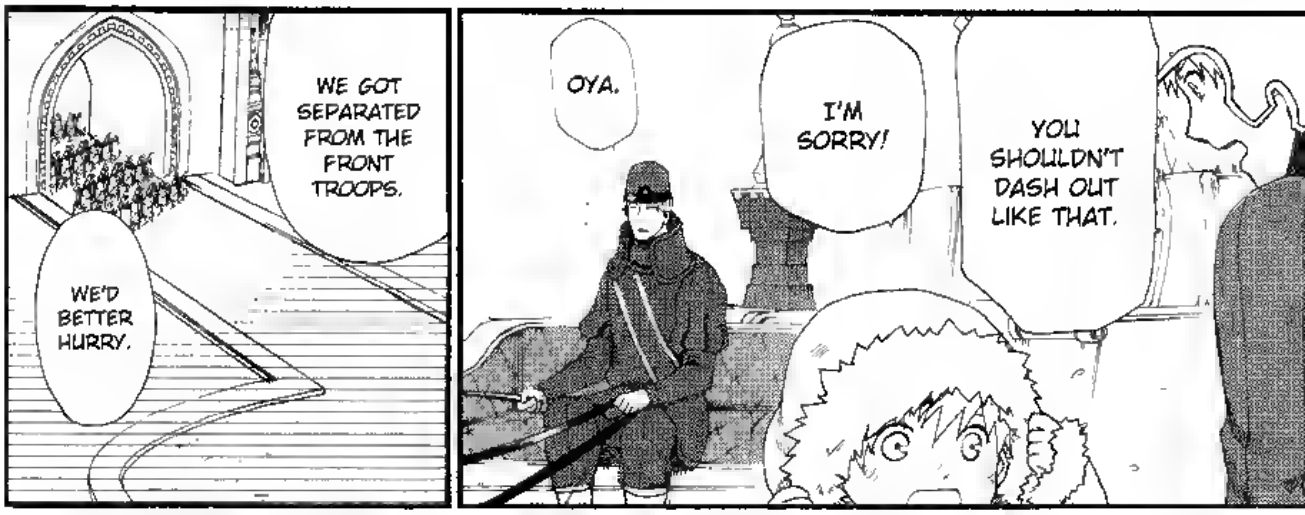
COMMENCE MISSION.

RAIN?



RA
...
Are they keeping a lookout on the plaza?

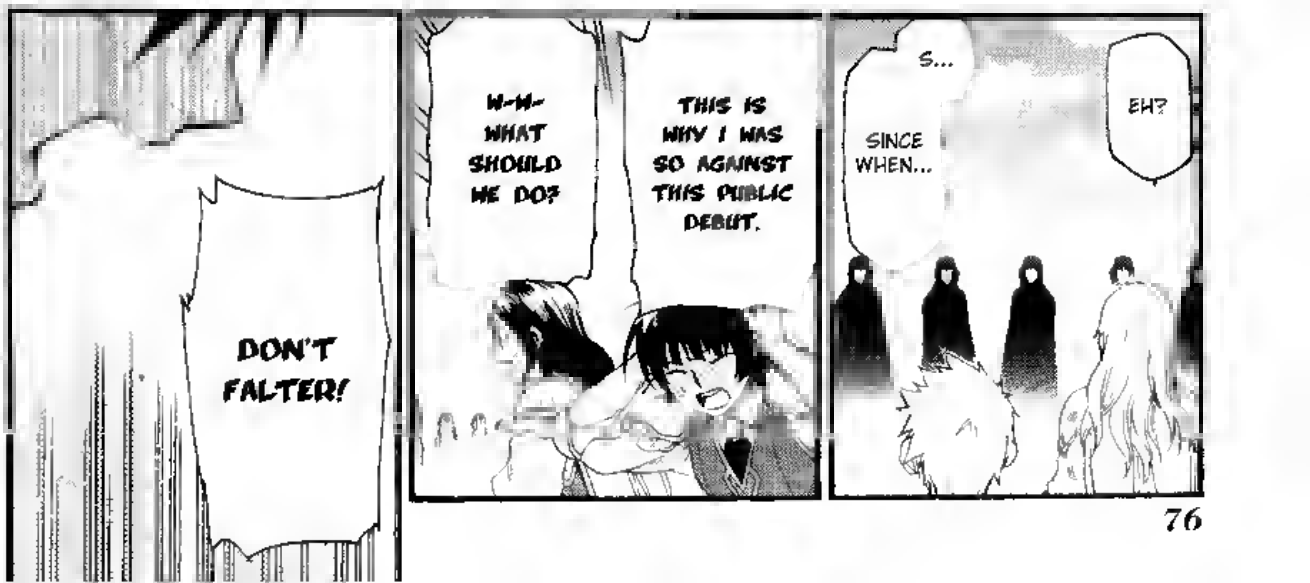

HEY! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT!?
UH ...
UM.


WE GOT SEPARATED FROM THE FRONT TROOPS.
WE'D BETTER HURRY.
OYA.
I'M SORRY!
YOU SHOULDN'T DASH OUT LIKE THAT.

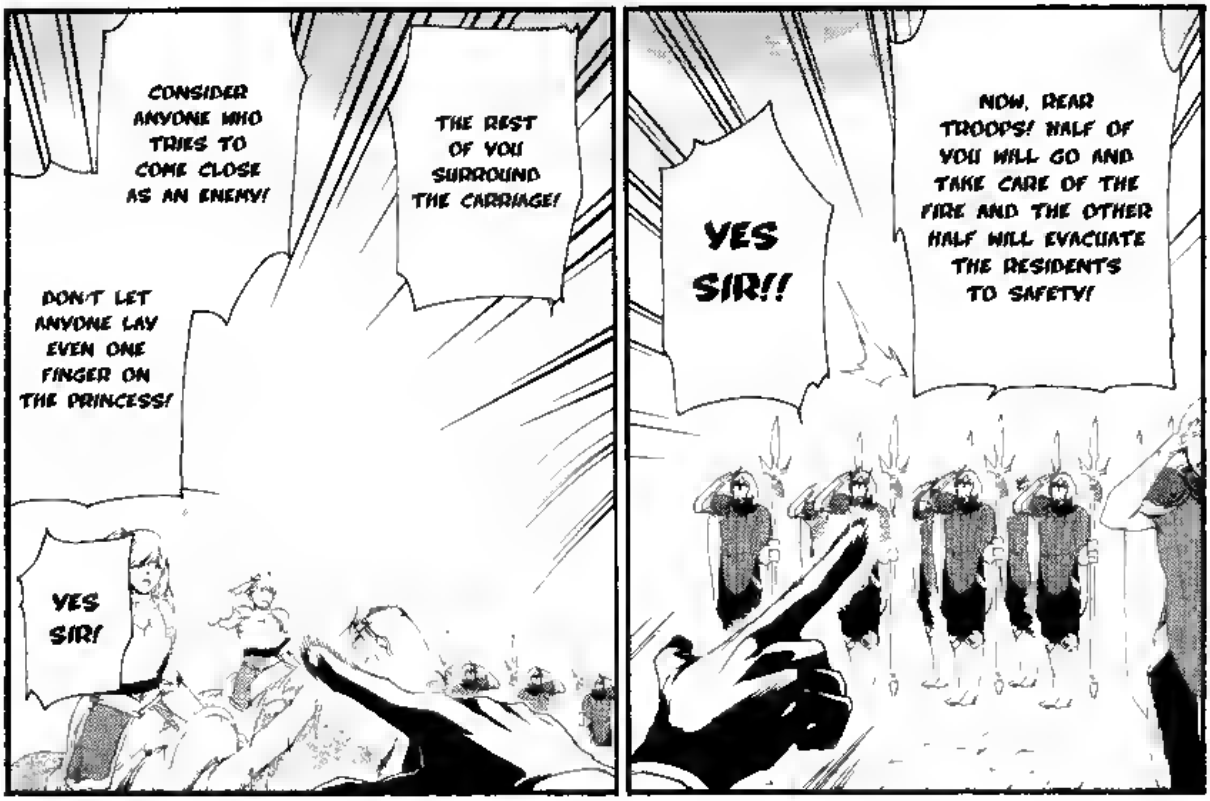
!?
WHAT'S WRONG?
LOOKS LIKE A KID FELL RIGHT IN FRONT OF THEM.
WAS HE HIT!?

WHA...
UWA AAA!
RUN!

NO. EVACUATE THE RESIDENTS FIRST!
FIRE! WE HAVE TO PUT IT OUT!
PLEASE CALM DOWN!
CALM DOWN!

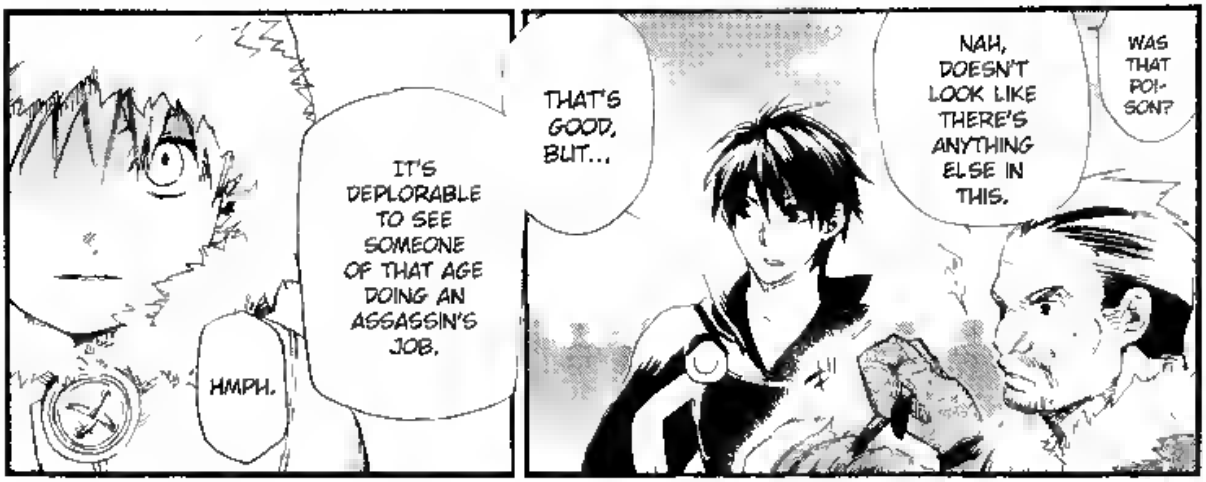

DON'T FALTER!
W-W-WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
THIS IS WHY I WAS SO AGAINST THIS PUBLIC DEBUT.
S...
SINCE WHEN...
EH?

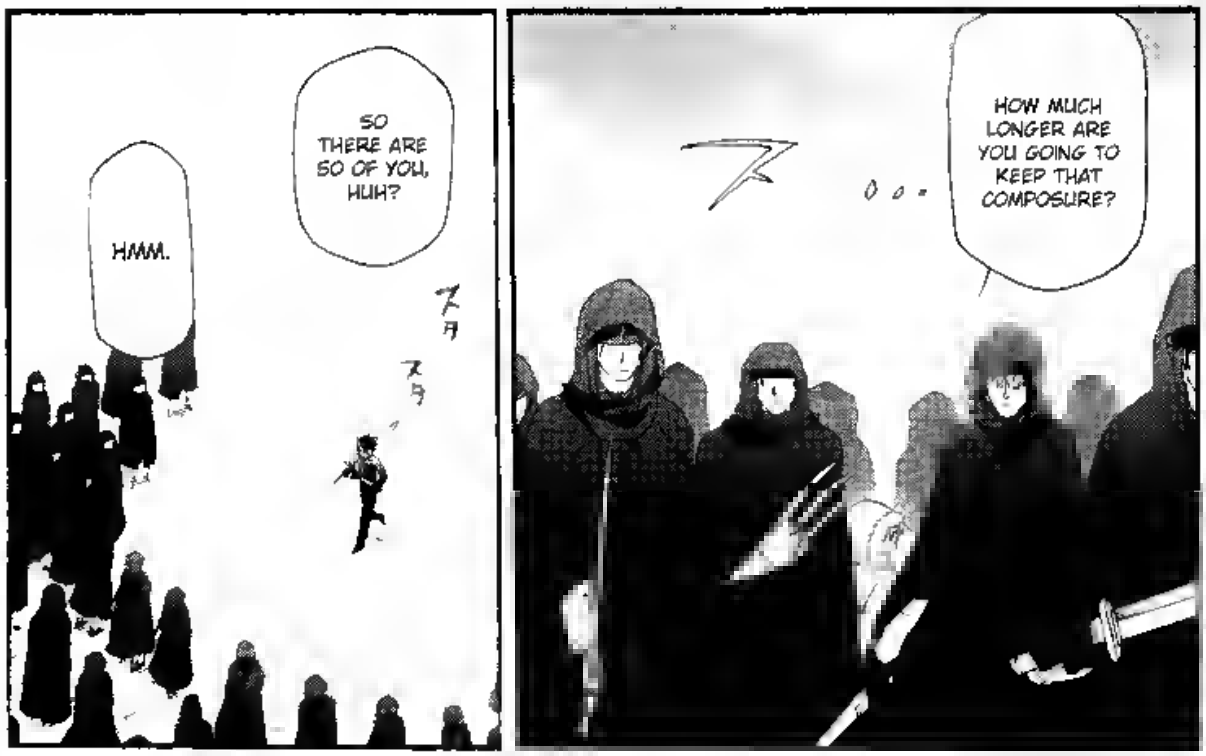
YOU GUYS ARE ONLY ALLOWED TO PANIC IF I HAPPEN TO DIE!
BUT THAT'S NOT GONNA HAPPEN!!


CONSIDER ANYONE WHO TRIES TO COME CLOSE AS AN ENEMY!
THE REST OF YOU SURROUND THE CARRIAGE!
DON'T LET ANYONE LAY EVEN ONE FINGER ON THE PRINCESS!
YES SIR!
YES SIR!!
NOW, REAR TROOPS! HALF OF YOU WILL GO AND TAKE CARE OF THE FIRE AND THE OTHER HALF WILL EVACUATE THE RESIDENTS TO SAFETY!

UH ...
I'LL BE THEIR OPPONENT.
THAT BOY IS STILL OVER THERE!?
!
UWAA AAN!
GASA-RAM!
YOU'LL BE SAFE IN THE CARRIAGE WITH ME!
COME HERE!!

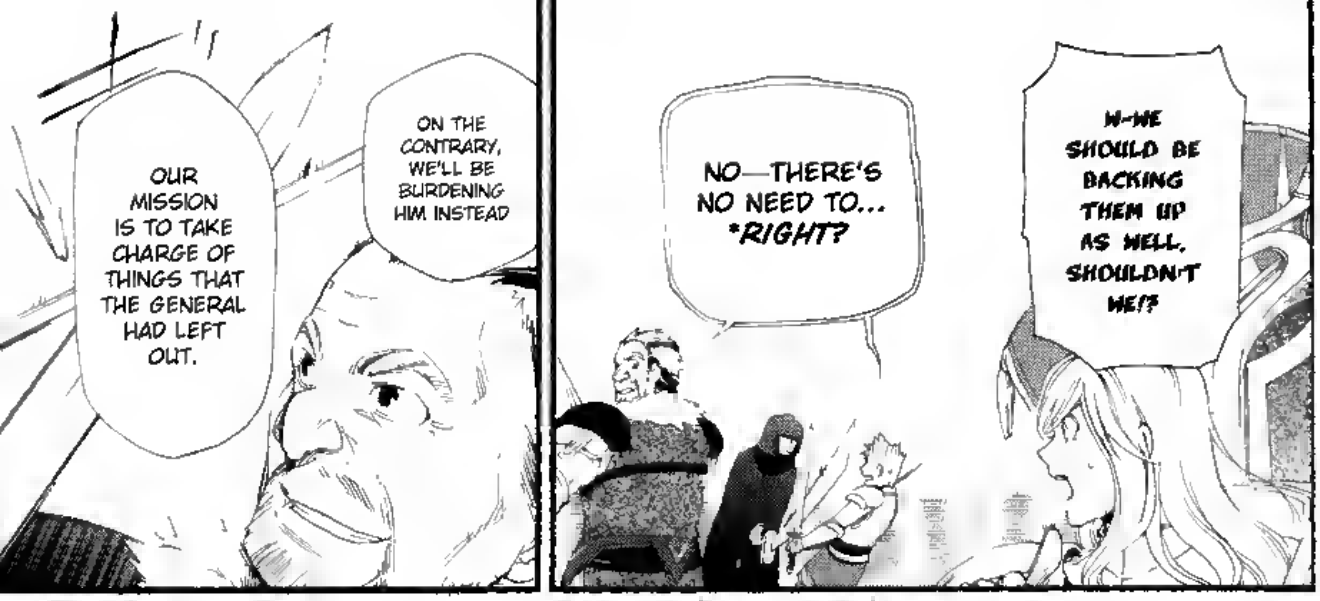
IF YOU DON'T ...
HOLD IT, BOY!
STOP THAT CHILD!!


WAS THAT POI-SON?
NAH, DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THERE'S ANYTHING ELSE IN THIS.
THAT'S GOOD, BUT...
IT'S DEPLORABLE TO SEE SOMEONE OF THAT AGE DOING AN ASSASSIN'S JOB.
HMPH.

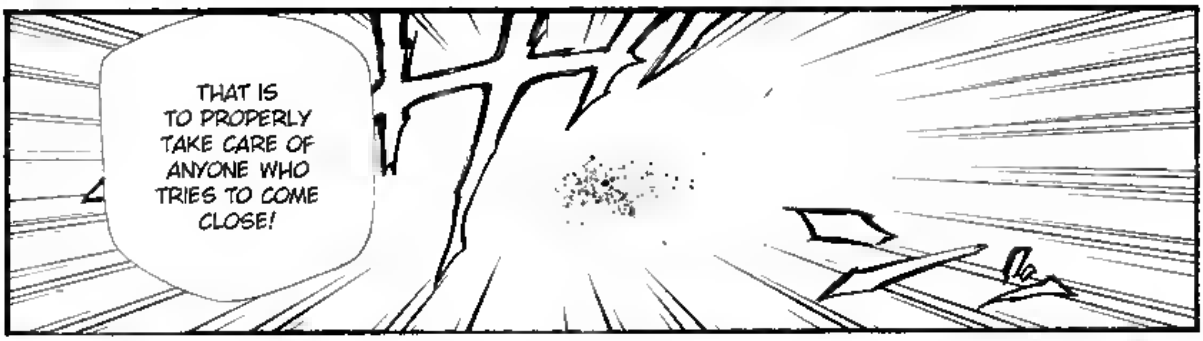

HOW MUCH LONGER ARE YOU GOING TO KEEP THAT COMPOSURE?
SO THERE ARE SO OF YOU, HUH?
HMM.

EASY VICTORY.

AS I THOUGHT, YOU GUYS AREN'T MUCH OF ANYTHING.
HM.


OUR MISSION IS TO TAKE CHARGE OF THINGS THAT THE GENERAL HAD LEFT OUT.
ON THE CONTRARY, WE'LL BE BURDENING HIM INSTEAD
NO—THERE'S NO NEED TO... *RIGHT?
W-WE SHOULD BE BACKING THEM UP AS WELL, SHOULDN'T WE!?

*TLN: Both Leni and Gazaram said it together.



CROSS FIRE!
WE NEED SEVERAL SECONDS MORE!
DOESN'T MATTER HOW MANY OF YOU GO DOWN!
We, the believers of Mana, call upon thy power...
Unleash the incandescent hellfire and burn thine enemies to nothingness!
ALRIGHT!
A DIRECT HIT!

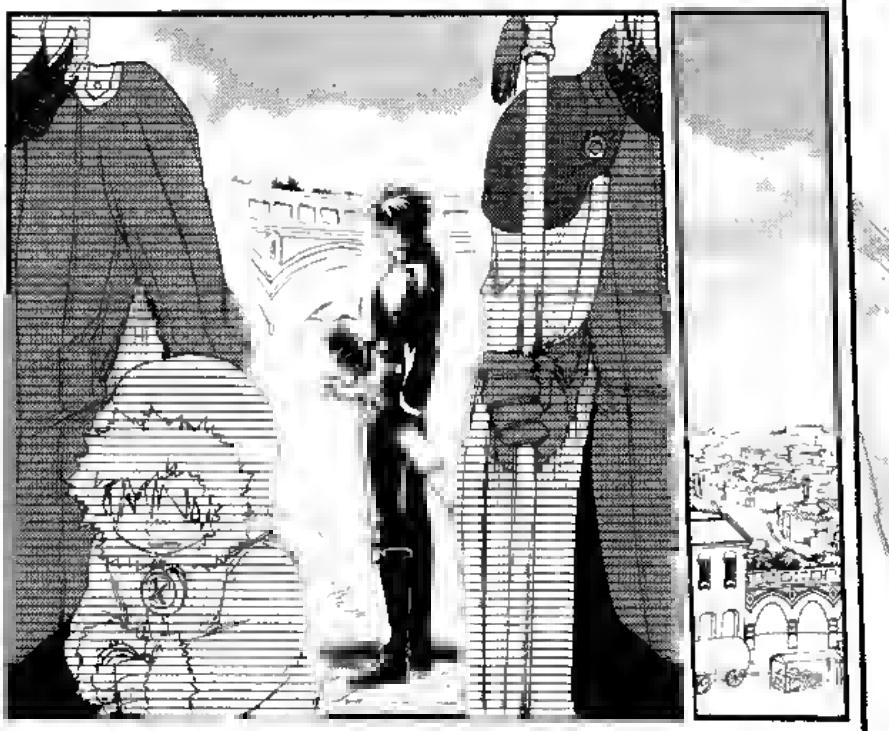
HOW UNFOR-TUNATE.

WHAT!?

SO IT'S AS THE RUMORS SAY...
YOU MONSTER.

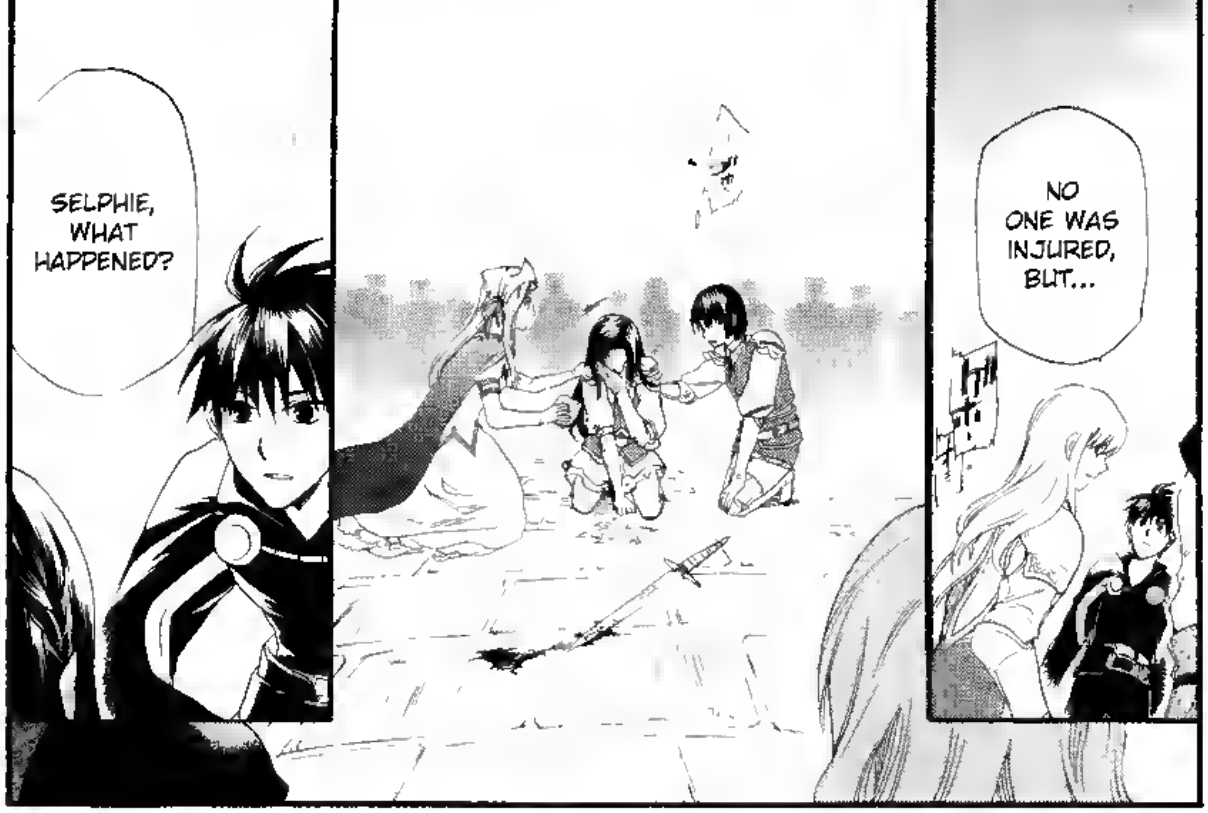
IT DIDN'T SEEM TO AFFECT MY BODY.

YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE LEFT.
AND DO YOU STILL PLAN TO FIGHT WITH THIS MONSTER?
A FRIEND OF MINE IS EXCELLENT AT THIS.
WHAT?!
EVEN YOUR HIDEOUT IS GONE.
ALL YOUR COMRADES ARE DEAD ALREADY.
YOU GUYS WERE TOO PREOCCUPIED WITH THE SHOWY PARADE.
I THINK THEY PROBABLY WOULD HAVE ARRESTED EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THEM ALREADY.
JUST ABOUT NOW, THEY WOULD HAVE BROKEN INTO YOUR HIDEOUT ALREADY.



ARE YOU ALRIGHT, GENERAL?

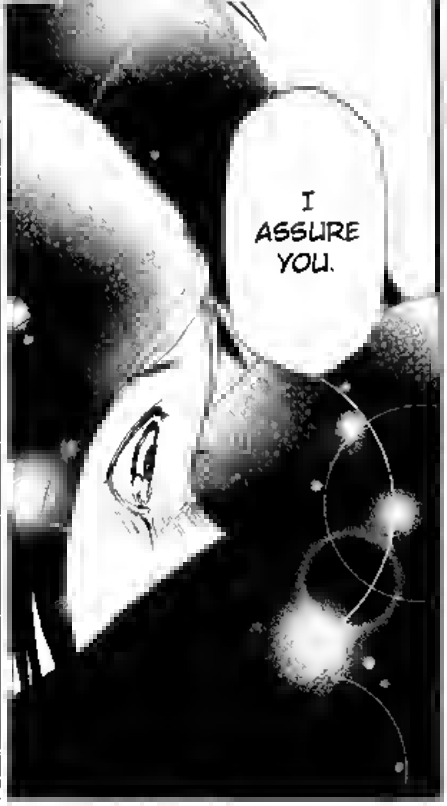
AS EXCELLENT AS EVER, HUH.
OF COURSE
HOW ABOUT YOUR SIDE? ANYONE INJURED?


SELPHIE, WHAT HAPPENED?
NO ONE WAS INJURED, BUT...

K-KILLED... A-A P-PERSON ...
I

YOU MADE THE RIGHT DECISION AS A KNIGHT.
IF YOU HADN'T KILLED HIM, THE PRINCESS AND THE REST OF YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN KILLED INSTEAD.

...
OKAY
...


I
ASSURE
YOU.

.....

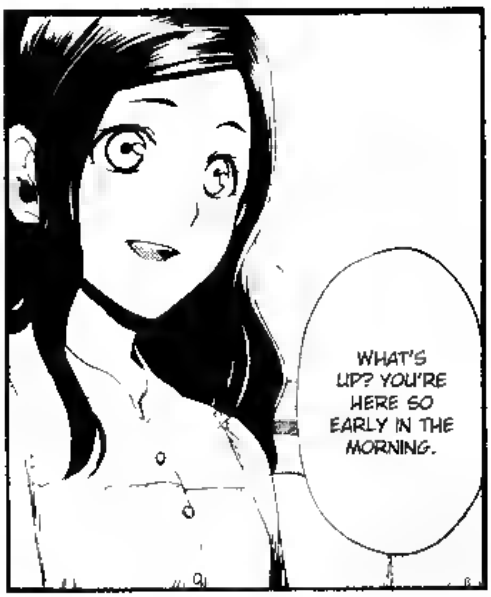
WHO'S
THERE!!

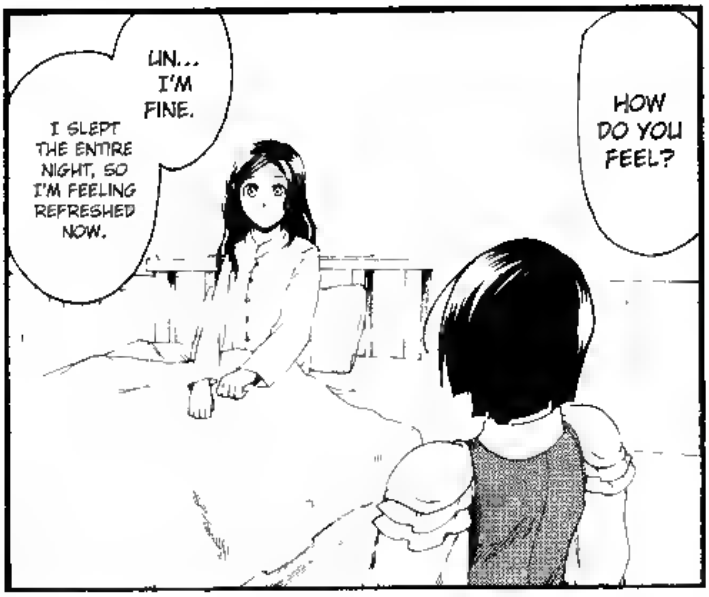
IT'S HARD TO THINK THAT RALPHUS MADE A BLUNDER.
SO ANOTHER PLAYER HAS ENTERED THE STAGE, HUH...
NO, I DON'T THINK SO.
IS IT ONE OF THESE GUYS?
LOOKS LIKE THINGS ARE BECOMING COMPLICATED.

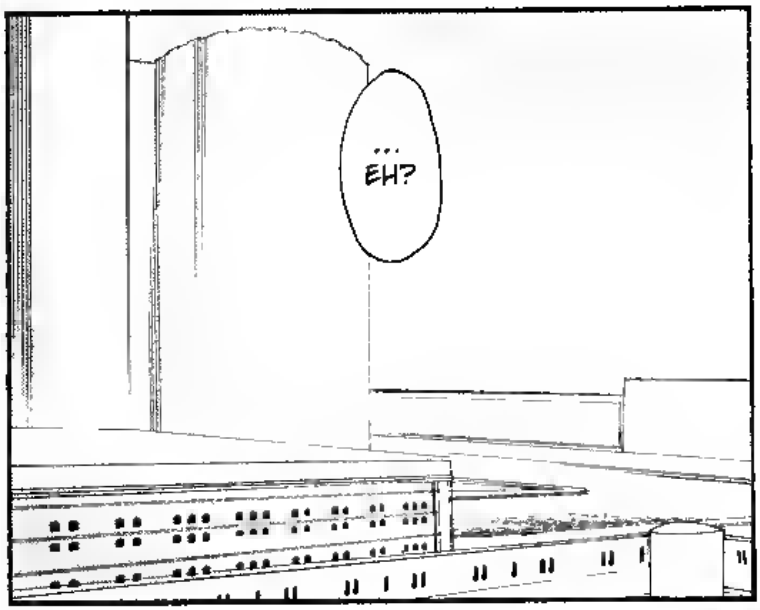
IT'S PRETTY NOISY BEHIND THE CASTLE GATE.
?
FINALLY A BREAK, HUH?
PLEASE GET A GOOD REST UNTIL IT'S YOUR TURN TO PATROL.
GOOD WORK EVERYONE.

WHAT'S HAPPENING OVER AT THE CASTLE GATE?
W-WELL T-THAT'S ...
WOAH.
SORRY ABOUT THAT.
WAH!
LORD RALPHUS!?
COME LOOK AT THIS!
THAT PERSON ...
GENERAL SAPHIR...
HAS RETURNED!

SELPHIE, ARE YOU AWAKE?


WHAT'S UP? YOU'RE HERE SO EARLY IN THE MORNING.


HOW DO YOU FEEL?
UN... I'M FINE.
I SLEPT THE ENTIRE NIGHT, SO I'M FEELING REFRESHED NOW.


... EH?

WELL, THE ENTIRE ARMY IS ASSEMBLING AT THE COURTYARD.

RAIN

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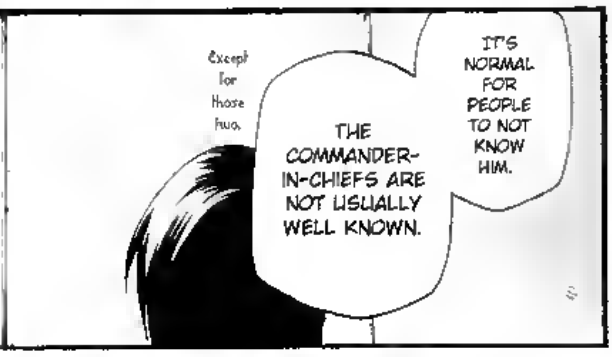
CHAPTER 14
THE KING'S LAST WILL.

BY THE WAY, WHO IS HE?
HMM, I FIGURED YOU WOULD ASK.

GENERAL SAPHIR HAS RETURNED?

NOT EVEN BY THEIR NAMES.


IT'S NORMAL FOR PEOPLE TO NOT KNOW HIM.
THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEFS ARE NOT USUALLY WELL KNOWN.
Except for those two.

HUH ...
THEN WHY NOW?

EVEN SINCE HE RAN AWAY FROM THE BATTLE LAST MONTH, HE'D BEEN CONFINING HIMSELF IN THE CASTLE UP NORTH.
SAPHIR IS ONE OF THE SEVEN COMMANDER-IN-CHIEFS IN THIS COUNTRY.
HE'S ONE UNPLEASANT ARISTOCRAT, REALLY.

HE CAME ALL THE WAY HERE TO PICK A FIGHT RIGHT BEFORE THE CORONATION CEREMONY.
I HEARD THAT HE CARRIED AN OFFICIAL SCRIPT IMPRINTED WITH THE SYMBOL OF THE ROYAL FAMILY WITH HIM.
PRECISELY BECAUSE NOW'S THE TIME, ISN'T IT?
EH ...
.....
HE EVEN BROUGHT ALL OF HIS TROOPS WITH HIM.
BECAUSE OF THIS, THE ATMOSPHERE WITHIN THE CASTLE GROUNDS HAS TURNED SO INTENSE FIRST THING IN THE MORNING.
THE SITUATION LOOKS REALLY BAD, DOESN'T IT?
I GUESS SO.
AT WORST, IT'LL BE AN ALL-OUT CONFRONTATION.
IT'S TOTALLY NOT AN ATMOSPHERE FOR A CORONATION CEREMONY.

LORD RAIN AND THE OTHERS
...
WHAT ARE THEY GOING TO DO...
PLEASE WAIT HERE FOR THE TIME BEING.
AS SOON AS THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE AUDIENCE HAVE BEEN MADE, WE WOULD INFORM YOU ONCE AGAIN UPON ORDER.
THAT SAPHIR
...
Hi

THE THING THAT YOU MENTIONED BEFORE THE PARADE WAS REGARDING THIS, WASN'T IT?
HE SURE HAS A GOOD SOCIAL STATUS, DOESN'T HE? THAT CURLY HAIR...
ASIDE FROM PUTTING UP AIRS THE ENTIRE MORNING, HE ACTUALLY CALLED HIMSELF THE MASTER AND USED THE AUDIENCE ROOM AS HE PLEASED ...
I WONDER WHAT LORD SAPHIR IS THINKING OF IN THIS KIND OF SITUATION ...
I DON'T KNOW, BUT I'M SURE IT'S NOTHING GOOD.
COULD HE BE THE ONE WHO SENT THE ASSASSINS FROM THE GUILD?
If Lord Saphir is actually aiming for the throne...

*TLN: The person who gave him orders.

I TOLD YOU YESTERDAY, DIDN'T I?
WELL, LISTEN UP.
OF COURSE NOT.
THAT MY FRIENDS WERE TEARING YOUR HIDEOUT APART.
AND I'VE JUST HEARD THE REPORTS FROM THEM ...

IT SEEMS THAT EVERYONE WAS ALREADY DEAD WHEN WE AMBUSHED YOUR HIDEOUT.
AND THE ONLY ONE LEFT ALIVE...

FROM THE LOOKS OF IT IT SEEMS LIKE WE'RE DEALING WITH SEVERAL OPPONENTS
REASON BEING THAT THEY ACTUALLY ANTICIPATED OUR ACTIONS AND COMPLETELY OBLITERATED THE ASSASSIN'S GUILD.
NOW, THAT'S SOMETHING.

YOU DON'T SEEM SURPRISED.

AT FIRST, IT WAS THE FAMILY'S PREDECESSORS OF THIS COUNTRY. I SUSPECTED THAT IT WAS THE DOING OF SOMEONE FROM AN ORGANIZATION THAT OPPOSED THE PRINCESS.
BUT FOR SUCH EXCELLENT MOVEMENTS IT COULDN'T POSSIBLY BE HANDLED BY ANY OF OUR INCAPABLE ARISTOCRATS.

...WAS WHAT I THOUGHT, BUT NO.
IF IT WERE LEYGUL, HE WOULD HAVE INVADED US DIRECTLY.
INDEED LITTLE ONE S "PRESSURE DID BOTHER ME A LITTLE BUT...

*TLN: Referring to her magical aura of some sort.

DON'T YOU UNDER-ESTIMATE US!
IF WE HADN'T BEEN RUSHED, WE WOULD HAVE COME UP WITH A BETTER PLAN!
HO ...
HA.

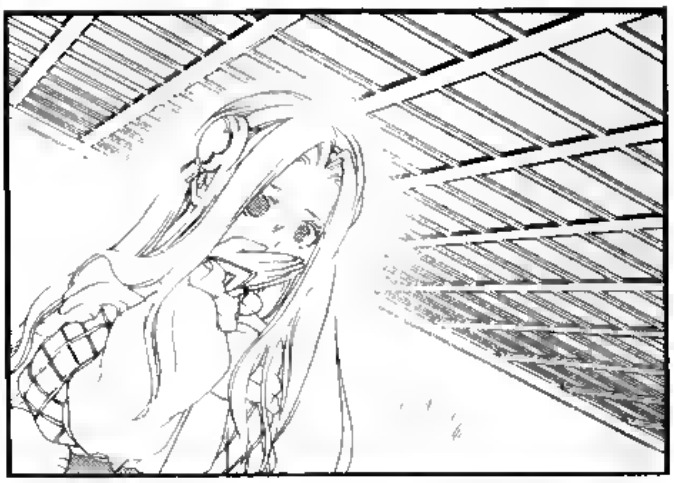
I'M NOT SAYING ANYTHING ANYMORE.
FIND THAT OUT YOURSELF

SO YOU WERE RUSHED ...
AND WHY IS THAT SO IF I MAY ASK?

YOU'RE BETTER OFF THROWING AWAY THAT CONCEITED ATTITUDE OF YOURS.
YOU MIGHT BE A FORMIDABLE OPPONENT, BUT KNOW THIS ..THE ONE WHO SENT ME HERE IS AT A LEVEL WHERE NO ONE CAN REACH HIM.

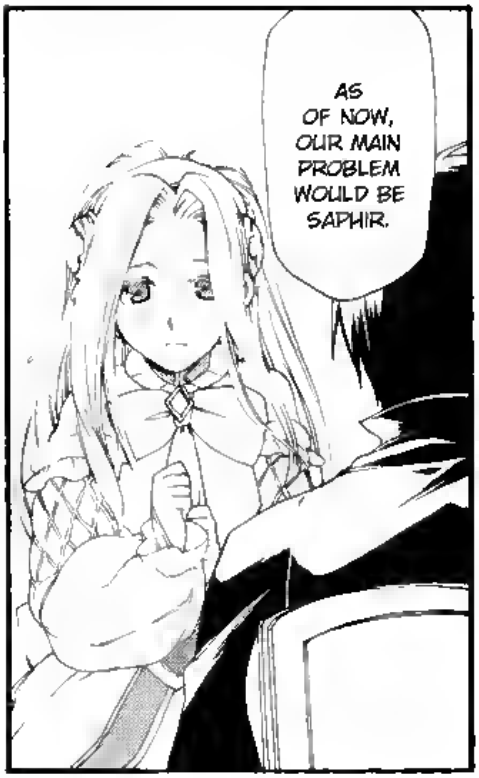
JUST ONE FINAL PIECE OF ADVICE.

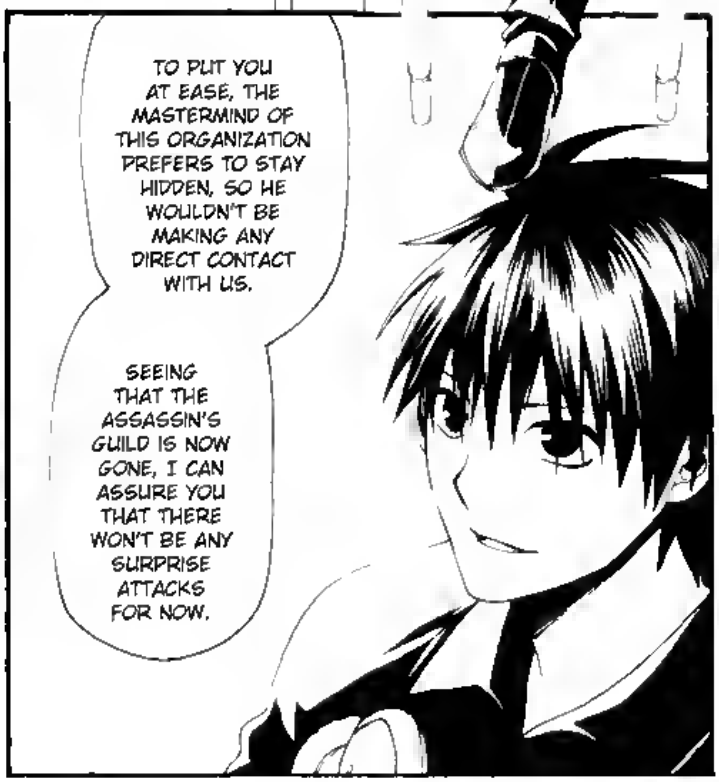
KILLING HIM... IS ...
YOU BOTH ARE MONSTERS ...
AT BEST ...
WELL, I WILL LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING HIM THEN.
.....
HAHA.

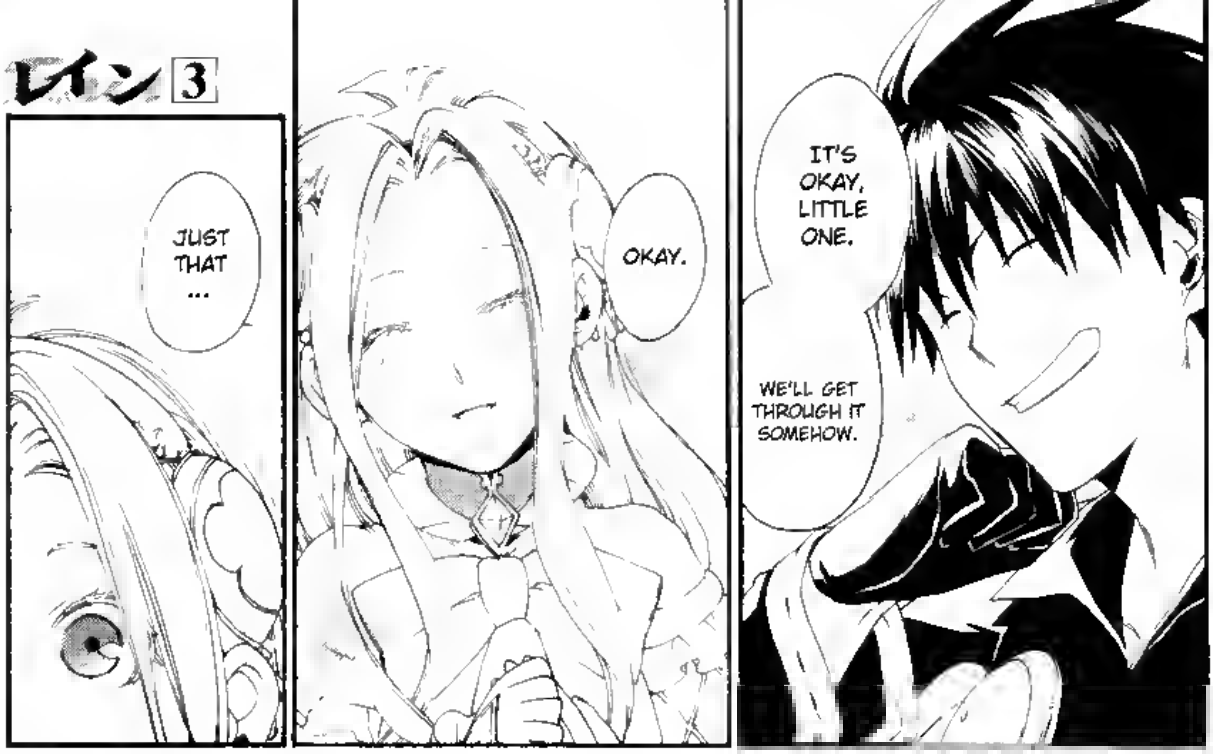


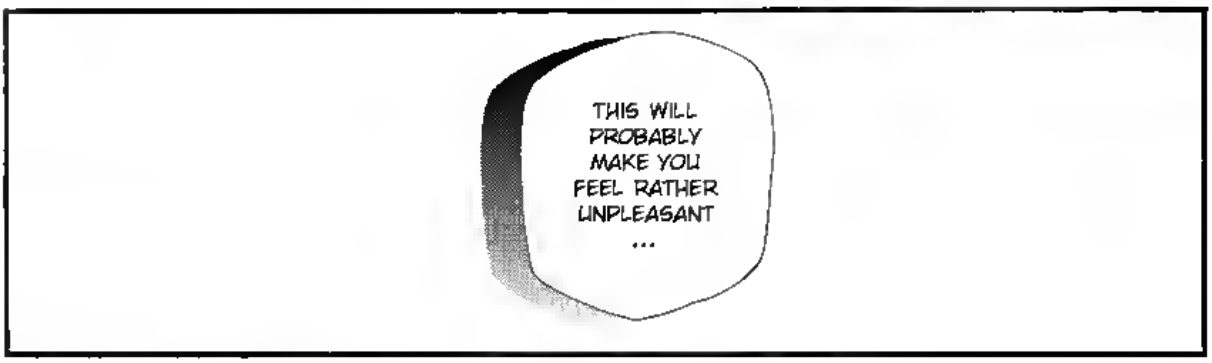
IN SUMMARY, THAT'S IT.
THE CONVERSATION ENDED WITHOUT ME FINDING OUT ANYTHING IN THE END, BUT ...
AT LEAST WE KNOW IT'S NOT SAPHIR.

I SCARED YOU WITH ALL THESE TOPICS AT THE WRONG TIME.
MY BAD.


AS OF NOW, OUR MAIN PROBLEM WOULD BE SAPHIR.

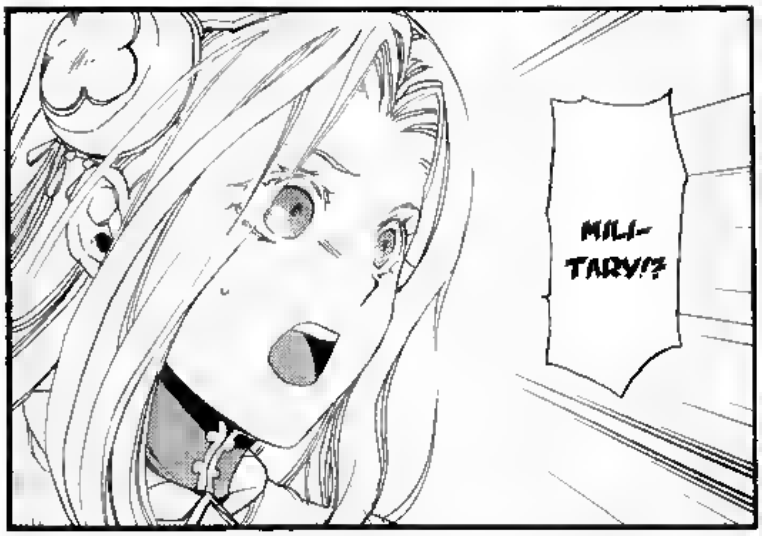

TO PUT YOU AT EASE, THE MASTERMIND OF THIS ORGANIZATION PREFERS TO STAY HIDDEN, SO HE WOULDN'T BE MAKING ANY DIRECT CONTACT WITH US.
SEEING THAT THE ASSASSIN'S GUILD IS NOW GONE, I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT THERE WON'T BE ANY SURPRISE ATTACKS FOR NOW.


JUST THAT ...
OKAY.
IT'S OKAY, LITTLE ONE.
WE'LL GET THROUGH IT SOMEHOW.


THIS WILL PROBABLY MAKE YOU FEEL RATHER UNPLEASANT ...

MAY I HAVE A MOMENT WITH YOU, LORD RAIN?
IS THAT YOU, GUNTHER? COME IN ...
EH ...

THERE IS ONE MORE REPORT I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE.
GOOD WORK.
PREPARATIONS OF THE ITEMS IN THE TREASURY AND THE REQUESTED GOODS ARE READY.

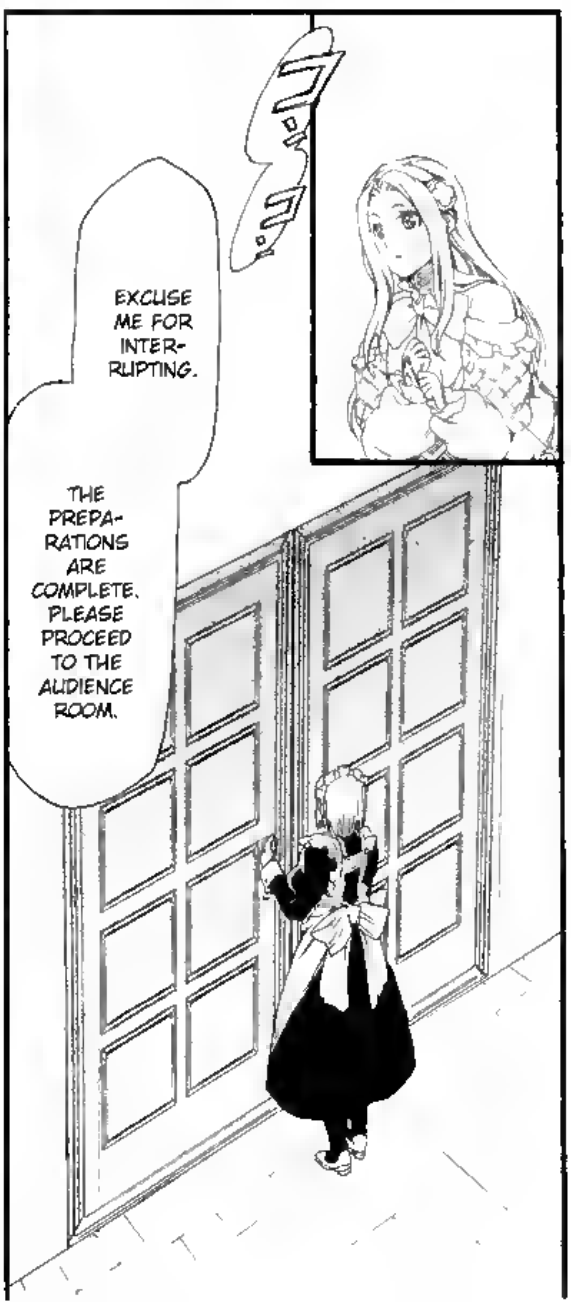

MILI-TARY!?

SAPHIR'S MILITARY FORCES ARRIVED A WHILE AGO.

AS I THOUGHT, THINGS ARE GETTING UGLY.
SO HE'S NOT SPARING ANY EFFORT WITH THE MILITARY, HUH.
LOOKS LIKE I WAS RIGHT TO HAVE PREPARED THE TROOPS.

YES, SIR.
LEAVE THEM TO THEIR OWN JUDGMENT OF THIS SITUATION.
HELP ME EXPLAIN THE SITUATION TO THE OTHER AIDES.
I ASSEMBLED THE ENTIRE TROOPS IN THE COURTYARD FIRST THING IN THE MORNING, SO EVERYONE SHOULD BE THERE.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO PROCEED TO THE ROOM NOW, SIR?
LET'S GO AND SEE THE IDIOT WHO DOESN'T EVEN KNOW HIS OWN LIMITS.


EXCUSE ME FOR INTER-RUPTING.
THE PREPA-RATIONS ARE COMPLETE. PLEASE PROCEED TO THE AUDIENCE ROOM.

IT'D BEEN QUITE GLARING SINCE THIS MORNING ...

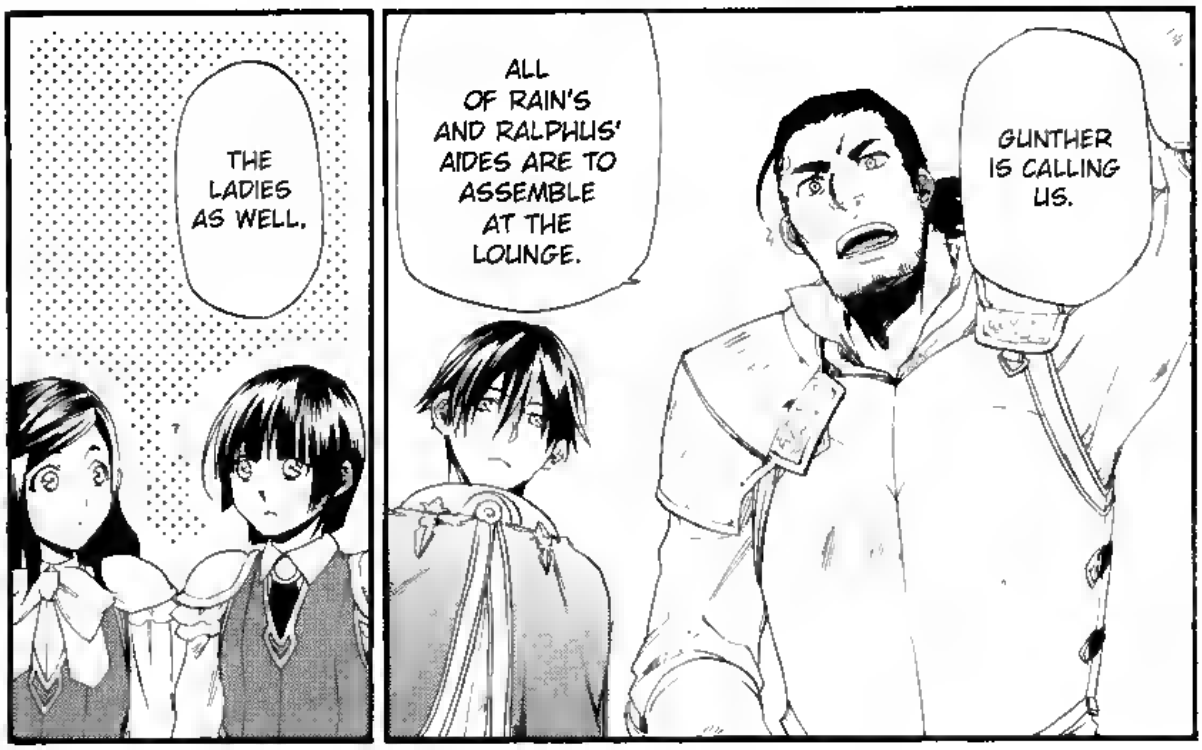
DON'T TELL ME THEY'RE PLANNING TO FIGHT WITHIN THE CASTLE GROUNDS?
WHO KNOWS ...

NAH, IT LOOKS TOO LARGE TO BE HIS, RIGHT?
THOSE LINES ARE SAPHIR'S TROOPS, RIGHT?

WELL, IT'S NOT AS IF WE CAN'T FIGHT IN THIS VAST COURTYARD, BUT...
SINCE WE WERE TOLD TO ARM AND ASSEMBLE OURSELVES, IT'LL CERTAINLY BE A FIGHT, RIGHT?
WE DON'T KNOW WHEN AND WHERE THE FIGHT IS GOING TO START, BUT...
... A ...

A FIIII IIGHT ...
UWAA
WHAT! WHAT'S WRONG!?
HE'S HAVING FITS
Not bothered at all.
FITS!?
.....

OH. IT HURTS.
O-I!


GUNTHER IS CALLING US.
ALL OF RAIN'S AND RALPHUS' AIDES ARE TO ASSEMBLE AT THE LOUNGE.
THE LADIES AS WELL.

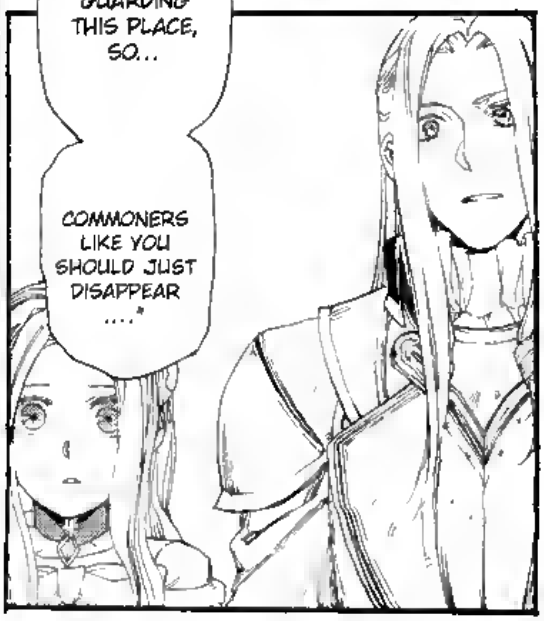
GOOD MORNING, YOUR HIGHNESS.
LORD RALPHUS!
YES.
DID SAPHIR SUMMON YOU HERE AS WELL?
ERM ...
YOU SHOULD ASK SAPHIR INSTEAD.
WE STATIONED OUR TROOPS AT THE COURTYARD AS YOU REQUESTED, BUT... WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO DO?
LOOKS LIKE THEY ARE DISPUTING OVER SOMETHING.

WHAT'S WRONG? WE DON'T NEED UP TO FOUR PEOPLE TO GUARD THIS PLACE.
GENERAL!
THAT'S ...

THAT UNIFORM BELONGS TO SAPHIR'S SUBORDI-NATES
THE OTHER ONE... OH, THOSE ARE MY SOLDIERS.

AND WHILE WE WERE ARGUING, LORD SAPHIR CAME WITH A CROWD JUST A MOMENT AGO.
WE WANTED TO STOP THEM, BUT ...
WELL ...

WE WERE GUARDING THIS PLACE WHEN THESE TWO PEOPLE CAME AND SAID...


"FROM NOW ON, WE'LL BE GUARDING THIS PLACE, SO..
COMMONERS LIKE YOU SHOULD JUST DISAPPEAR ...."

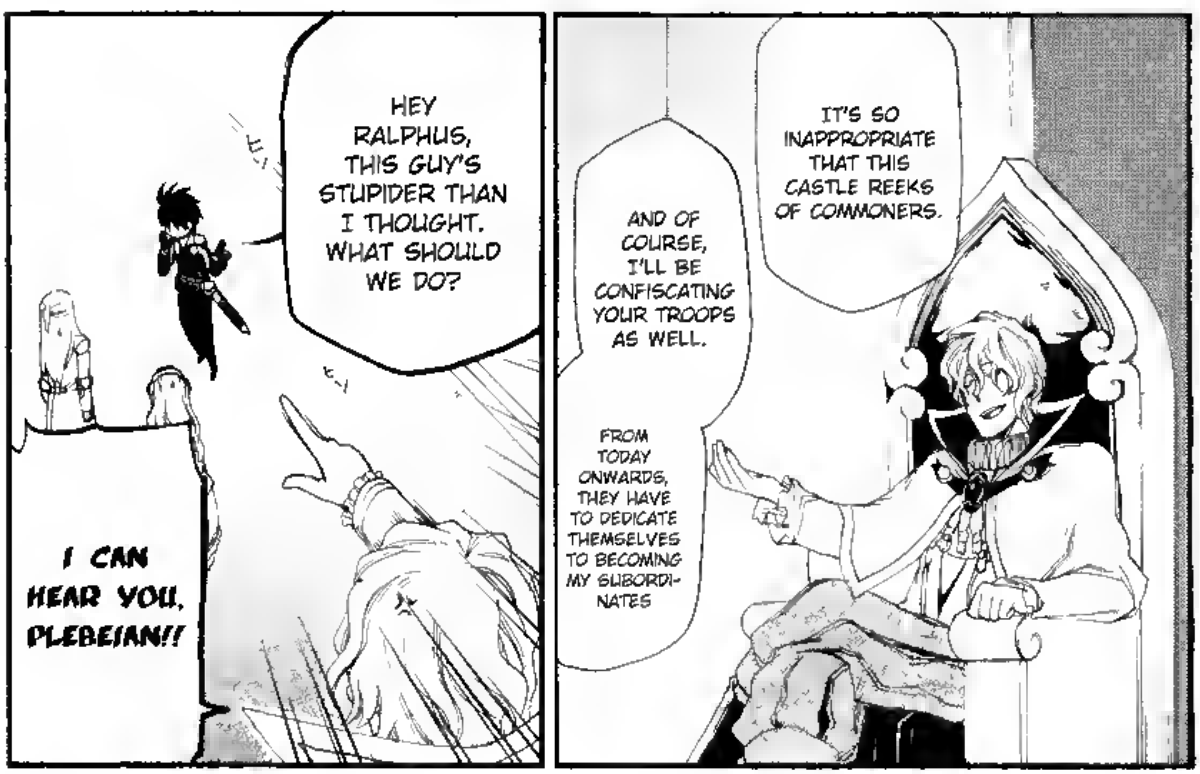
Your cheeks ...

EEK!?
MILAN, WAS IT?
YES SIR ...
WE'RE REALLY SORRY.
GO GET SOME ICE FOR YOUR CHEEKS, AND THEN JOIN THE REST OF YOUR COMPANY IN THE COURTYARD.
YOU'RE DISMISSED FOR TODAY.
YES SIR!
わしゃわしゃ
YOU STILL TRIED TO STOP THEM, EVEN THOUGH YOU WERE UP AGAINST A COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF WHO EVEN HIT YOU. I ADMIRE YOUR GUTS.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
AS EXPECTED OF MY SOLDIER!
B-BUT WE'RE ...
I WON'T REPEAT MYSELF.
YOU TWO HAD BETTER LEAVE THIS PLACE IMMEDIATELY AS WELL.

IF THAT'S THE WAY YOUR COMMANDER DOES THINGS ...
HOW ABOUT I TRY IMITATING HIS WAYS?
I THOUGHT I SAID THAT I WOULDN'T REPEAT MYSELF.
ABUSING ONE'S AUTHORITY AND VIOLENTLY PUSHING PEOPLE AROUND ...
GUU ...
IYA— SPLENDID.
FROM NOW ON, I'LL LEAVE IT TO YOU TO DRIVE OUT WHOEVER'S IN THE WAY.
QUIT FOOLING AROUND.
LET'S GO.

YOU DID WELL IN COMING HERE, COMMONERS.
WELL, ACTUALLY THAT'S ALL I WANTED TO SAY TO YOU.

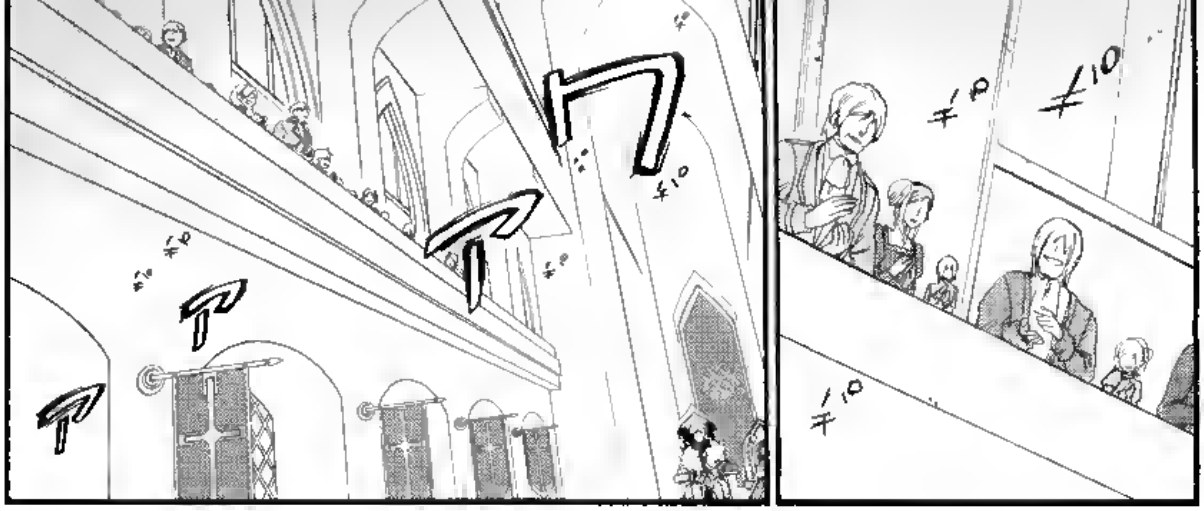
BEGONE.

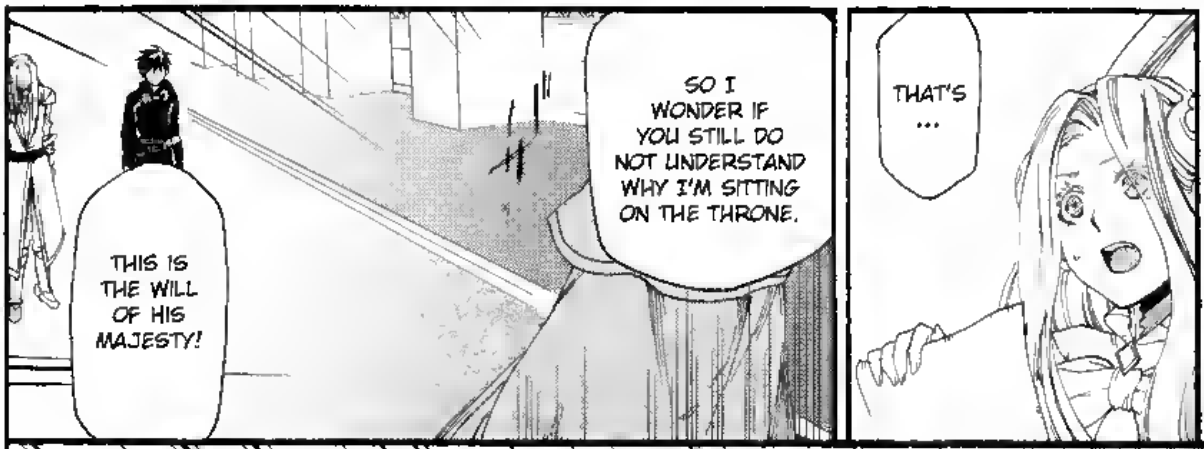

HEY RALPHUS, THIS GUY'S STUPIDER THAN I THOUGHT. WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
I CAN HEAR YOU, PLEBEIAN!!
IT'S SO INAPPROPRIATE THAT THIS CASTLE REEKS OF COMMONERS.
AND OF COURSE, I'LL BE CONFISCATING YOUR TROOPS AS WELL.
FROM TODAY ONWARDS, THEY HAVE TO DEDICATE THEMSELVES TO BECOMING MY SUBORDINATES

YOUR HIGHNESS! COME TO ME!
HMPH.
YOU'LL ONLY BE ABLE TO HOLD THAT MANNER OF SPEAKING FOR NOW.
YOUR SEAT IS ON THIS SIDE.
YOU WOULD ONLY DIRTY YOURSELF BY STANDING BESIDE THOSE COMMONERS.
WHAT ...
GO.
(Whis-pering)
I FEEL UNCOM-FORTABLE ABOUT HIM LOOKING DOWN ON YOU LIKE THAT.

IF YOU'D PLEASE, YOUR HAND ...
I'M FINE.
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME, YOUR HIGHNESS.
NOW I WOULD LIKE YOU TO AFFIRM A CERTAIN MATTER.
The seal of the royal family!

[In the event that anything were to happen to me.]
[The legacy of my kingdom is to be bestowed upon Commander-in-Chief Sathir Dalmanarc Fostiter]
[Along with the entrustment of future affairs of this country.]
[Douglas Valence Sunkwoll]




THIS IS THE WILL OF HIS MAJESTY!
SO I WONDER IF YOU STILL DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHY I'M SITTING ON THE THRONE.
THAT'S ...

THAT I WILL BE KING OF THIS COUNTRY!

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CHAPTER 15
THE BOND BETWEEN THE RULER AND THE RULED
HIS LEGACY AND AUTHORITY WERE PASSED DOWN TO SAPHIR?
I THOUGHT THAT MIGHT HAPPEN...
IS IT TRUE THAT THE HANDWRITING ON THE WILL BELONGS TO YOUR FATHER?
YOUR HIGH-NESS!
WHAT!?
I CAN'T BE SURE.
I RARELY GET THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE MY FATHER'S HANDWRITING.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
IT'S WITHOUT A DOUBT THE HANDWRITING OF THE PREVIOUS KING!
EVERYONE IN THIS ROOM CAN TESTIFY FOR THAT!

LORD SAPHIR, WE SHOULD POSTPONE AFFIRMING THE AUTHENTICITY OF THAT WILL.
SHUT UP, COMMONER!
YOU'LL LOSE CREDIBILITY IF YOU GET FLUSTERED SO CONSPICUOUSLY, YOU KNOW.

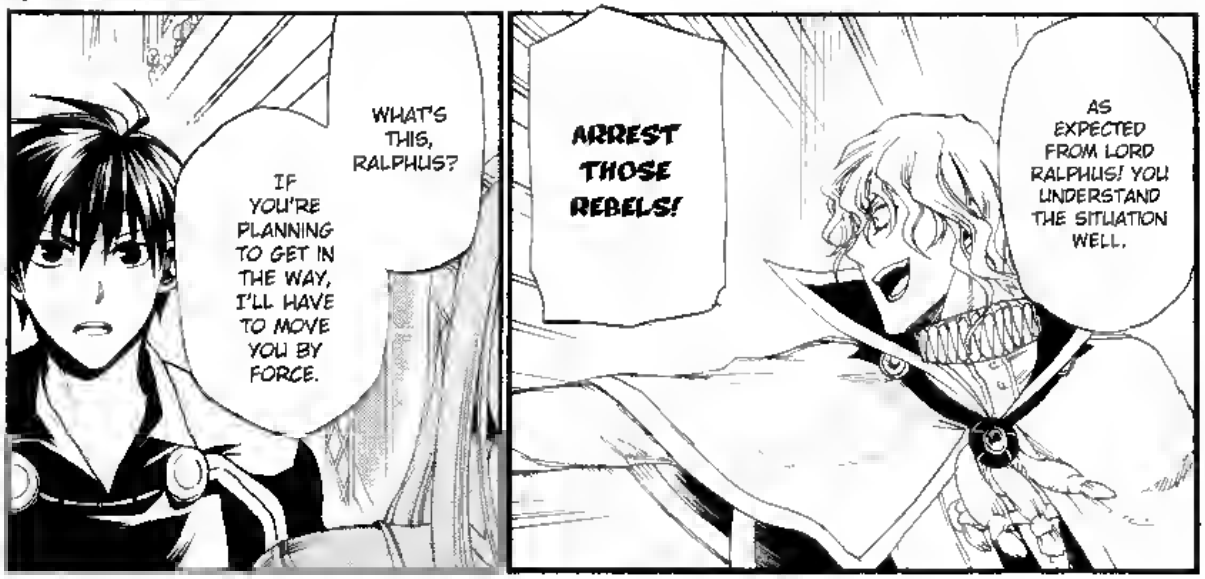
UH ...
HMM.
THE TRUTH IS, I SUFFERED A SEVERE INJURY DURING THE BATTLE
EVER SINCE THE START OF THE BATTLE WITH ZARMAIN ...
I'VE ALWAYS WONDERED WHERE YOU MIGHT HAVE BEEN?

YOU COULDN'T POSSIBLY HAVE THAT MANY MEN LEFT IN YOUR CASTLE.
SO WHAT'S WITH THE THOUSANDS OF YOUR TROOPS THAT ARRIVED THIS MORNING?
SOMEHOW, MY SUBORDINATES MANAGED TO EVACUATE ME TO THE CASTLE FOR COMPLETE RECOVERY DURING WHICH, I WAS UNABLE TO MOVE.
COMMON SOLDIERS AND PEOPLE WHO SHARE THE SAME YEARNING FOR THE PREVIOUS GENERATION SIMILAR TO MYSELF, GATHERED TO BECOME MY FOLLOWERS.
THEY ARE NOT ONLY MEN WHO HAD LOST THEIR GENERAL ...
AH, THAT. YOU SEE, SOME OF THEM WERE ONCE THE SUBORDINATES OF THE OTHER COMMANDER-IN-CHIEFS.
BEFRIENDING THE ARISTOCRATS, WHO WERE ON THE WANE AFTER A MONTH HAD PASSED, AND THEN TAKING OVER THIS COUNTRY WAS ALL PART OF YOUR PLAN, HUH?
SO, NOT ONLY DID YOU LEAVE THE KING ALONE, YOU EVEN RETREATED FROM THE BATTLE-FIELD
I SEE, I SEE.

STOP THIS IRREVERENT CRIMINAL!
YOU BAS-TARD!!
LOOKS LIKE IT'S BETTER FOR ME TO CLEAR THIS MESS BEFORE THE SMALL FRIES START CROWDING AROUND.

STOP!

!
SHEATHE YOUR WEAPON, RAIN.


WHAT'S THIS, RALPHUS?
IF YOU'RE PLANNING TO GET IN THE WAY, I'LL HAVE TO MOVE YOU BY FORCE.
ARREST THOSE REBELS!
AS EXPECTED FROM LORD RALPHUS! YOU UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION WELL.

YOU CAN'T CUT ME.
DON'T SAY SOMETHING YOU'RE NOT GOING TO DO.

ARE YOU SAYING THAT I CAN'T BEAT YOU!?
WHAT DID YOU SAY?

SINCE THE PEOPLE WITHIN THE CASTLE ALREADY KNOW OF THE EXISTENCE OF THE WILL ...
IF YOU KILL HIM NOW, THEY WOULD ONLY SUSPECT THAT YOU ARE HIDING SOMETHING, WOULDN'T THEY?
ARE YOU PLANNING TO CUT YOUR FRIEND DOWN OVER THIS KIND OF MATTER?
L-LORD RALPHUS?
I'M FULLY AWARE OF THAT.
EVEN SO, WE SHOULD STILL BEAT THIS GUY UP HERE AND NOW.
IF YOU KILL HIM, THE CASTLE GROUNDS WILL INSTANTLY TURN INTO A BATTLE-FIELD.
THERE ARE THOUSANDS OF MEN OUTSIDE

IT'S THE MASTER, RIGHT?
I'M SAYING THAT YOU SHOULD WAIT.
THE ONE WHO DECIDES ON THAT IS NOT THE FOLLOWERS.
IF YOU WOULD BE THE ONE IN POWER, WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO HER HIGHNESS THEN?
LORD SAPHIR, THIS WOULD BE MY FINAL QUESTION TO YOU.
I WILL MAKE HER MY BRIDE.

WHAT'S SO SUR-PRISING?
IT'S ONLY NATURAL TO PRESERVE THE LINEAGE OF HIGH-CLASS NOBLES LIKE THE ROYAL FAMILY!
EVEN IF HER HIGHNESS DISAGREES TO THAT.
... NO ...

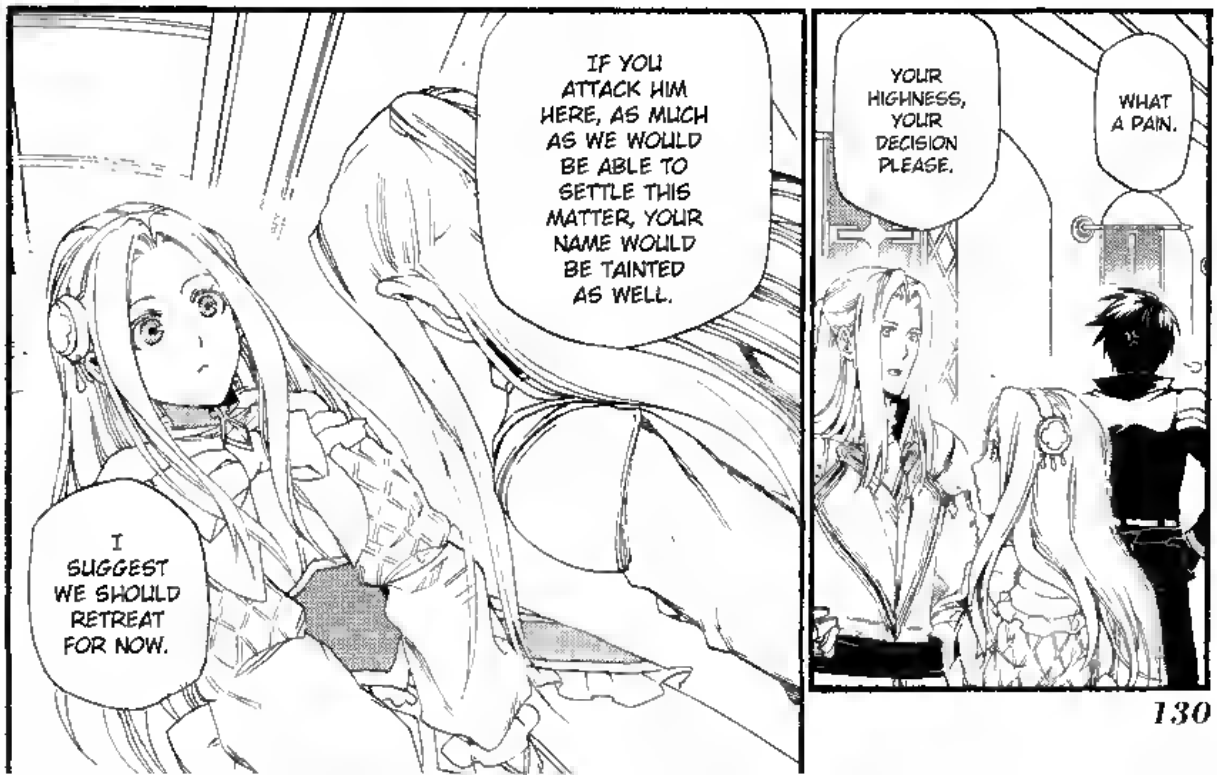
EH?

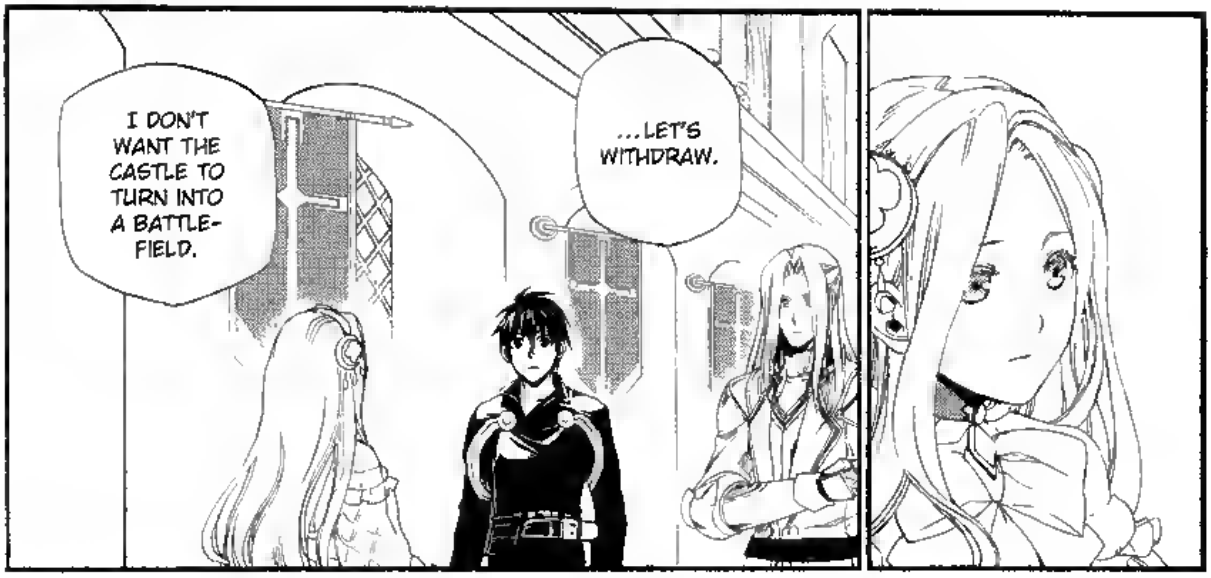
IT'S ...
DEFINI-TELY...
A NO !!!

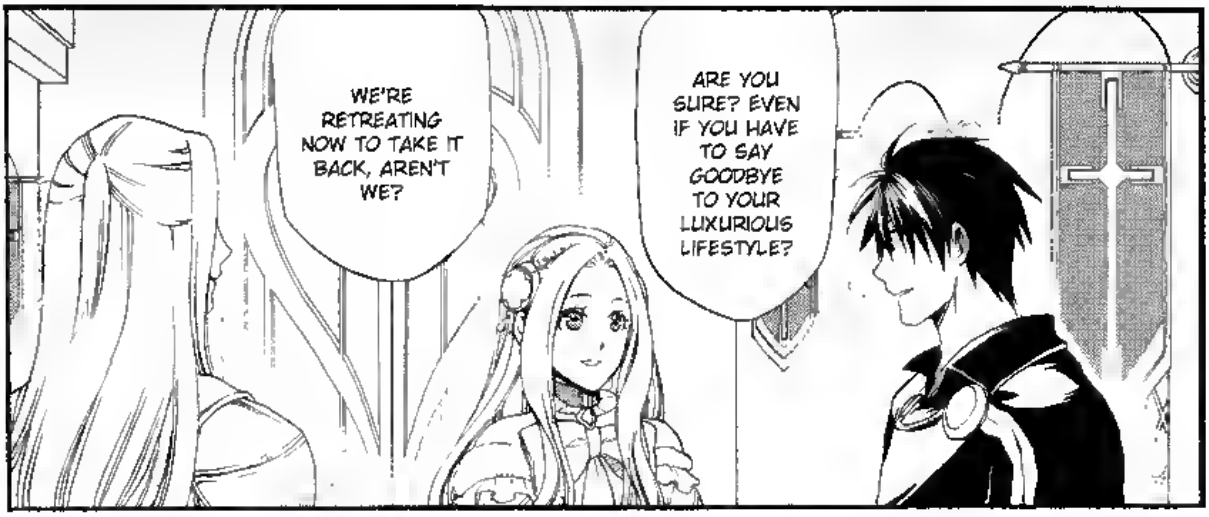
ギュ
THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME I DID IT
ばばば
THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME I HEARD YOU SHOUT SO LOUD.
ぶっ
HMM?
... RAIN.

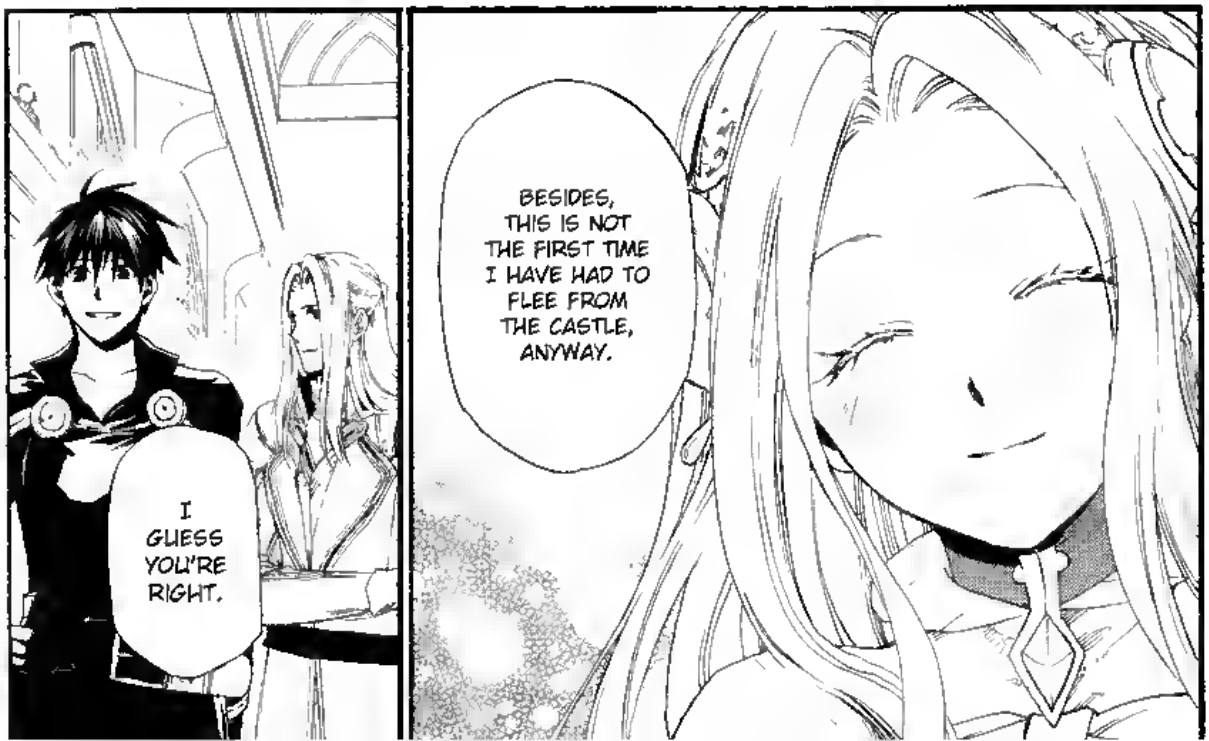
SO YOU'VE FINALLY REVEALED YOURSELF ...

I SHOULD BE THE ONE TELLING YOU THAT, YOU PERVERTED CURLY HAIR!!
IS EXCEEDINGLY SHAMELESS!!
VIOLATING BOTH HER BODY AND HEART, AND TOYING WITH HER ESPECIALLY WHEN HER HIGHNESS IS IN SUCH A WEAKENED STATE AFTER THE LOSS OF HER FAMILY...


I SUGGEST WE SHOULD RETREAT FOR NOW.
IF YOU ATTACK HIM HERE, AS MUCH AS WE WOULD BE ABLE TO SETTLE THIS MATTER, YOUR NAME WOULD BE TAINTED AS WELL.
YOUR HIGHNESS, YOUR DECISION PLEASE.
WHAT A PAIN.


I DON'T WANT THE CASTLE TO TURN INTO A BATTLE-FIELD.
...LET'S WITHDRAW.


WE'RE RETREATING NOW TO TAKE IT BACK, AREN'T WE?
ARE YOU SURE? EVEN IF YOU HAVE TO SAY GOODBYE TO YOUR LUXURIOUS LIFESTYLE?


I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT.
BESIDES, THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME I HAVE HAD TO FLEE FROM THE CASTLE, ANYWAY.

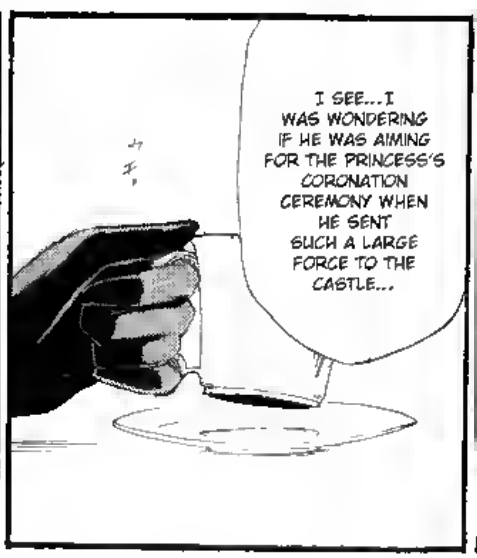
W-WHAT ARE YOU ...
PLEASE COME BACK, YOUR HIGHNESS!
AND LORD RALPHUS! EVEN YOU ARE PARTICIPATING IN THIS REBELLIOUS ACT? HAVE YOU GONE MAD!?
YOU MAY THINK THAT I'M MAD ...
BUT I'M MERELY A KNIGHT WHO WISHES TO PROTECT HIS MASTER.
THEN WHY AREN'T YOU OBEYING ME!
ARE YOU PLANNING TO IGNORE HIS MAJESTY'S WISHES!?
SO ANYONE WHO CARRIES THAT AND SITS ON THE THRONE WOULD BECOME KING, HUH?
THAT'S CHEAP.
!!
IT'S HOT!
LORD SAPHIR, BECAUSE YOUR WORDS CONTAIN NOTHING BUT SELF-INTEREST, I DON'T SEE ANY TRUTH IN THEM.

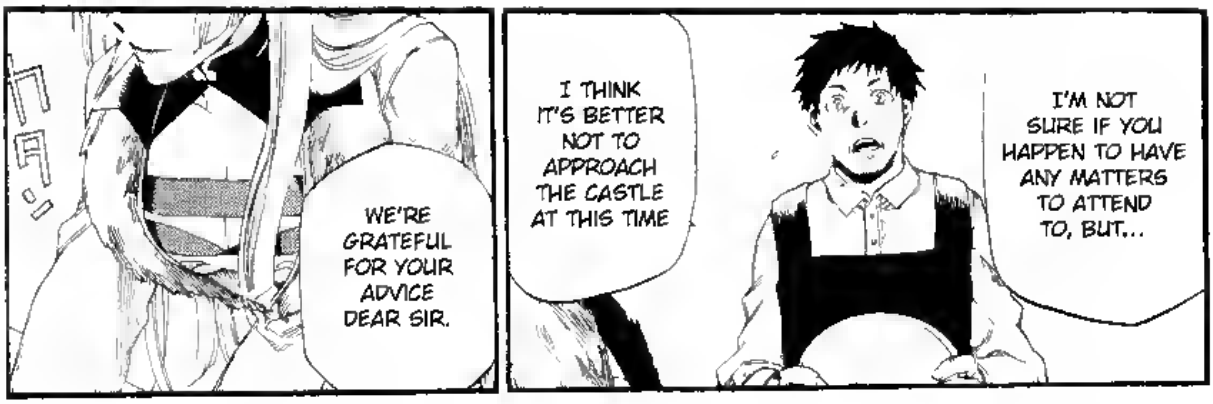
EVEN IF THE HILL SPEAKS YOUR TRUTH FOR NOW...
MY LOYALTY IS NOT SO WEAK THAT IT CAN SIMPLY BE OVERTURNED BY A MERE PIECE OF PAPER!
THOSE REBELS... THEY BETTER NOT THINK OF ESCAPING ALIVE.
LOOKS LIKE WE'RE DONE WITH THE GREETINGS.
SHALL WE?

SEE YA, SAPHIR.
IT WAS NICE MEETING YOU.
HI- WAIT ...
OOH-HOW REFRESHING!
THAT WASN'T NECES-SARY...

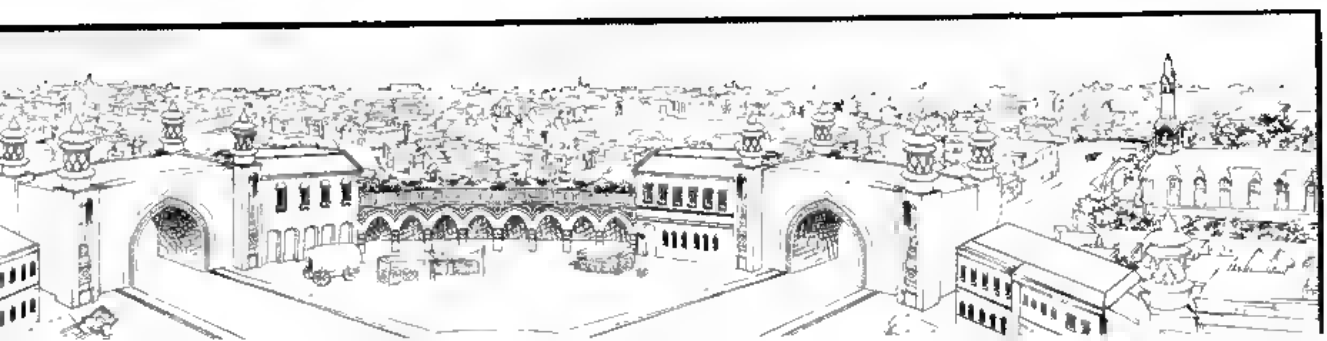
WAAA AITT!!

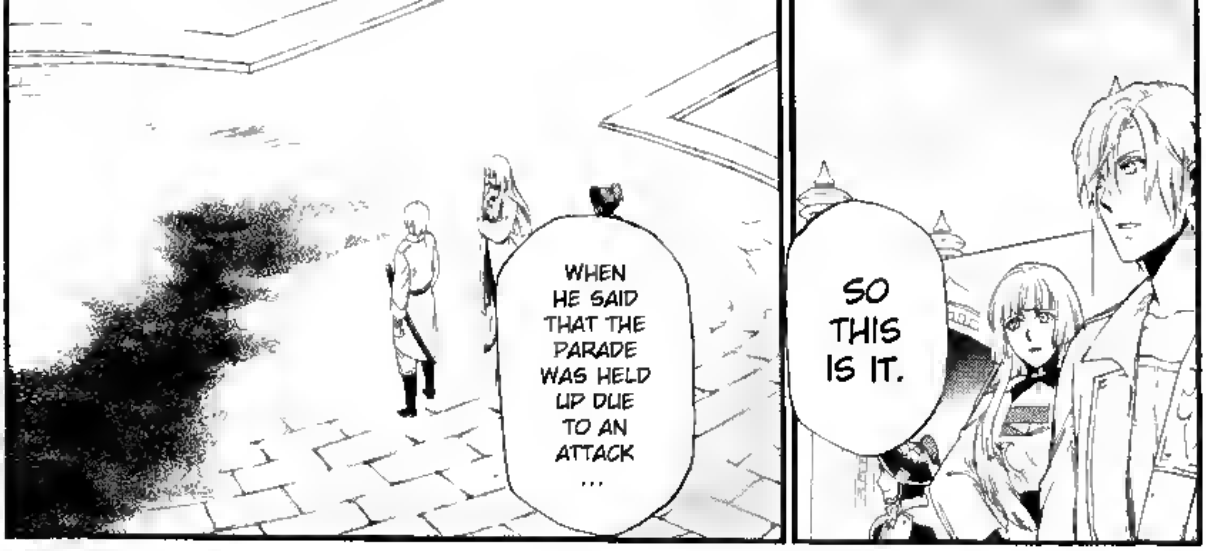
APPARENTLY, THERE WAS AN ATTACK AS WELL THAT HELD UP THE PARADE.
YEAH.

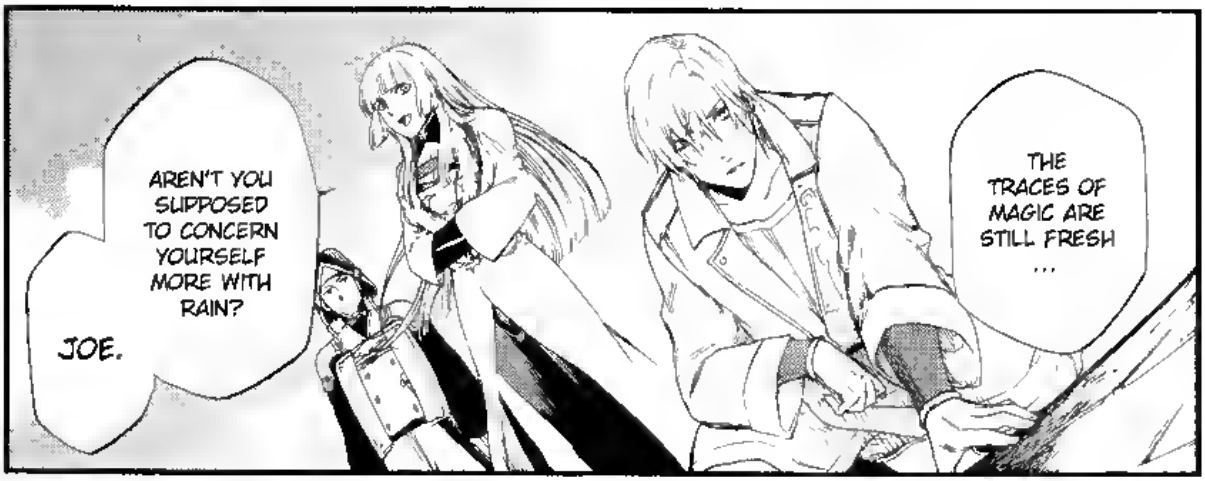

I SEE...I WAS WONDERING IF HE WAS AIMING FOR THE PRINCESS'S CORONATION CEREMONY WHEN HE SENT SUCH A LARGE FORCE TO THE CASTLE...


ニヨ…
WE'RE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR ADVICE DEAR SIR.
I THINK IT'S BETTER NOT TO APPROACH THE CASTLE AT THIS TIME
I'M NOT SURE IF YOU HAPPEN TO HAVE ANY MATTERS TO ATTEND TO, BUT...

BUT WE ALSO CAN'T AFFORD TO GIVE UP THAT EASILY.

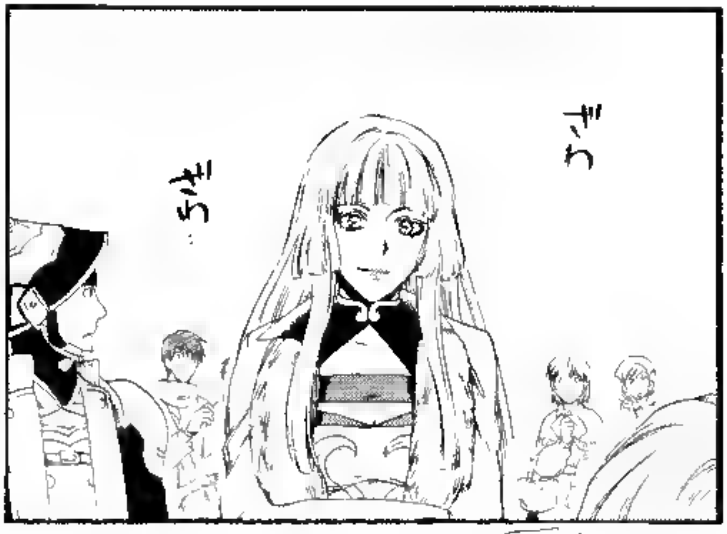



WHEN HE SAID THAT THE PARADE WAS HELD UP DUE TO AN ATTACK ...
SO THIS IS IT.


JOE.
AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO CONCERN YOURSELF MORE WITH RAIN?
THE TRACES OF MAGIC ARE STILL FRESH ...

EVEN IF 10 YEARS HAS PASSED, I'LL NEVER MISTAKE THAT PRESENCE.
NAH, I DIDN'T SAY THAT I'LL LEAVE HIM BE.

WE SHOULD HURRY TO GALFORT CASTLE.
IT'S NOT GOOD TO ATTRACT SO MUCH ATTENTION.
IS THAT SO?


ざわ…
ざわ…

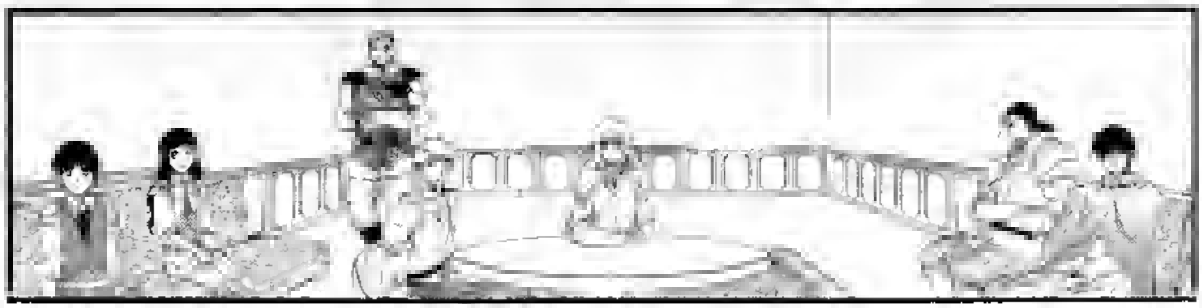
IT'S NOT AS IF WE'VE ALREADY BECOME AN ALLY OF THIS COUNTRY.

IF WE STAND OUT, THE ONES ON THE OTHER SIDE WOULD NOTICE US AND MAYBE WE COULD SEND THEM A LITTLE GREETING.
MOST IMPORTANTLY, I'M TIRED OF WALKING ALREADY.

WHAT SHING SAID DOES MAKE SENSE.
THEY STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT WE'RE TRYING TO DO AFTER ALL.

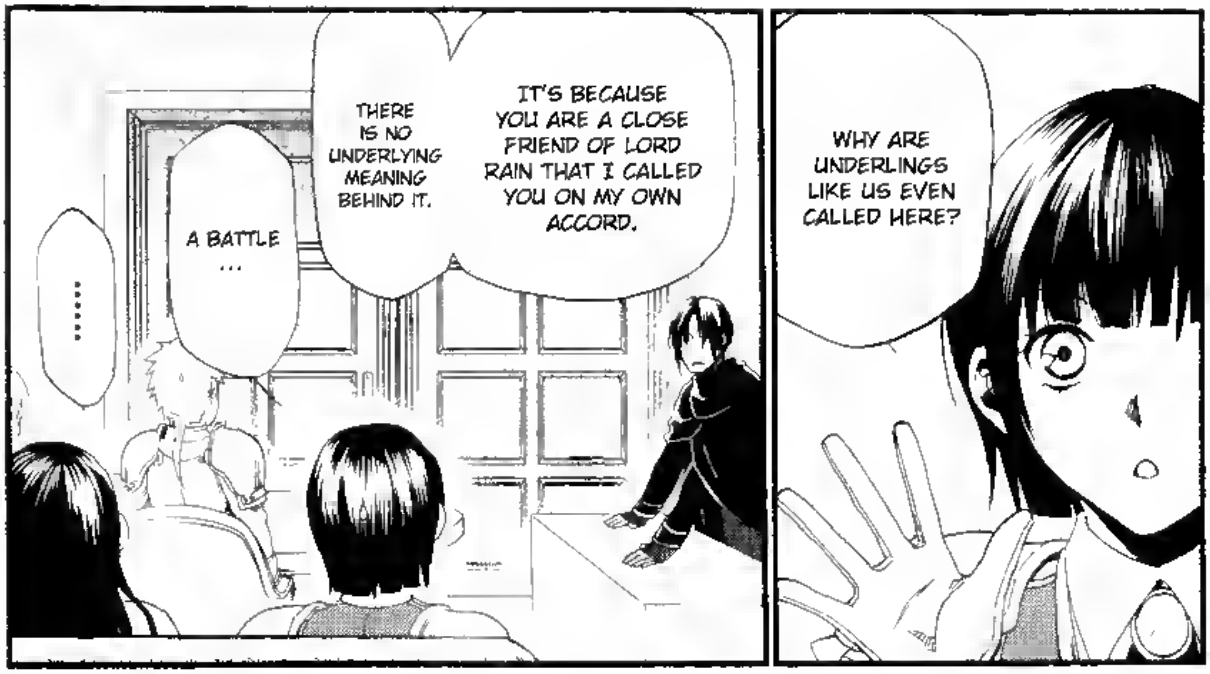
WOULD THEY BECOME OUR ALLIES OR OUR ENEMIES?
Going slightly back in time.

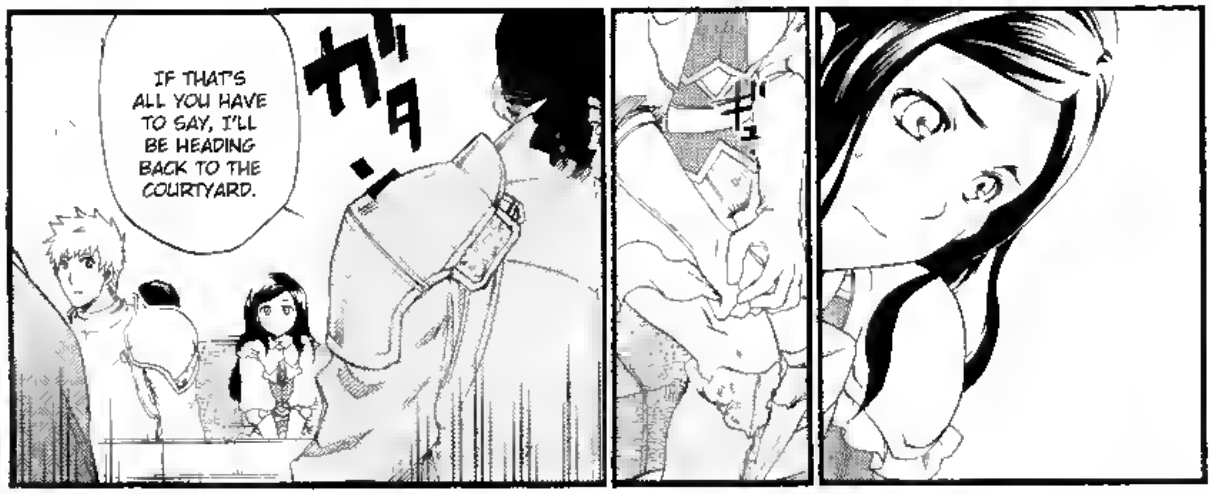
I WOULD LIKE ALL OF YOU TO DECIDE FOR YOURSELVES.
Galfort Castle's Discussion room.



I'VE GOT A QUESTION!

A DISCUSSION IS CURRENTLY TAKING PLACE IN THE AUDIENCE ROOM.
I DARESAY THAT HEREAFTER LORD RAIN'S MEN AND SAPHIR'S MEN WOULD BE FACING EACH OTHER WITH HOSTILITY.
WOULD YOU FIGHT TOGETHER AS LORD RAIN'S FOLLOWERS OR WOULD YOU REMAIN IN THE CASTLE AS KNIGHTS OF THE KINGDOM... I WOULD LIKE YOUR ANSWERS ON THIS.


IT'S BECAUSE YOU ARE A CLOSE FRIEND OF LORD RAIN THAT I CALLED YOU ON MY OWN ACCORD.
THERE IS NO UNDERLYING MEANING BEHIND IT.
A BATTLE ...
.....
WHY ARE UNDERLINGS LIKE US EVEN CALLED HERE?


IF THAT'S ALL YOU HAVE TO SAY, I'LL BE HEADING BACK TO THE COURTYARD.
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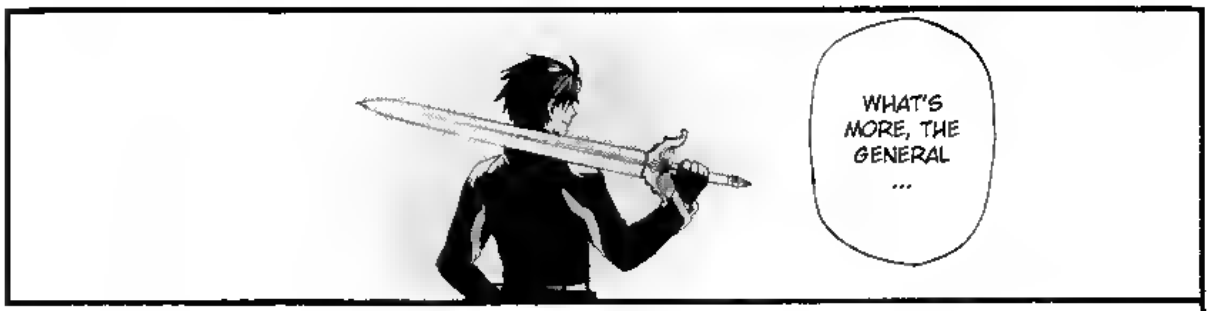
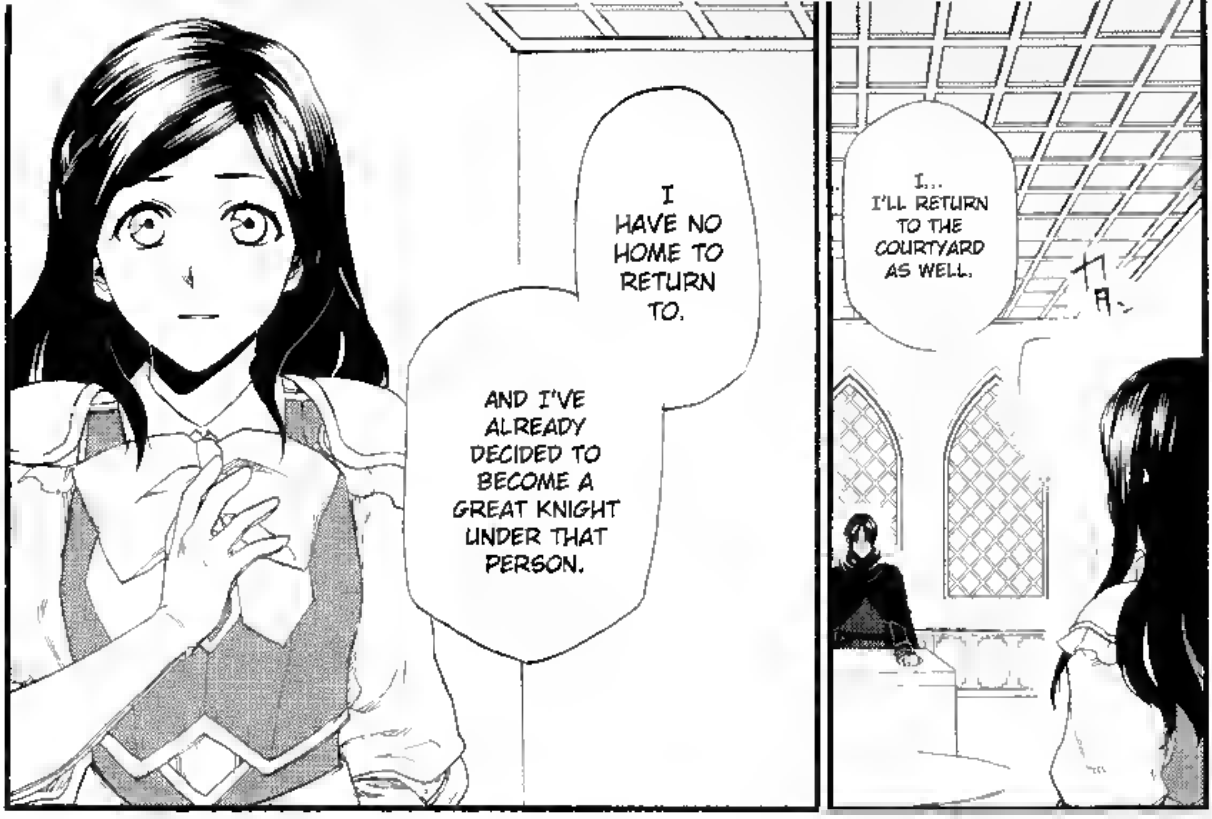
WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THIS IS NOT FOR ME TO DECIDE.
I CONCUR.
I'M GENERAL RALPHUS'S AIDE.
I PERSONALLY DISAPPROVE OF THOSE GUYS UNDER SAPHIR

はは、
I'LL BE LOOKING FORWARD TO THAT WHEN THE TIME COMES.
IF IT COMES TO THAT, I'LL JUST HAVE TO DESTROY YOU.
PRAY THAT WE DON'T END UP BECOMING MUTUAL ENEMIES, GUNTHER-
THIS IS THE GENERAL'S DECISION SO I'VE GOT NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
SO, HOW ABOUT THE REST OF YOU?
FAIR ENOUGH.
HE DID ME A FAVOR IN PICKING THIS OLD BODY UP AFTER ALL.
OF COURSE I'LL GO.

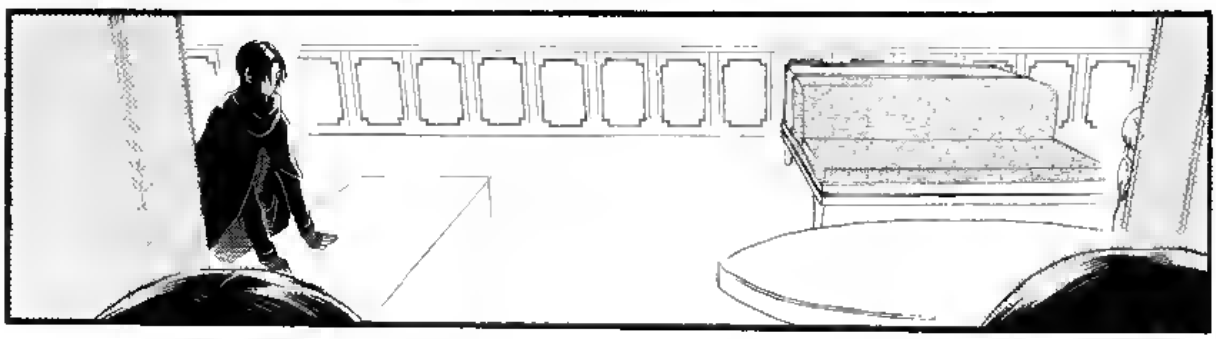
YOU ARE A NOBLE OF THIS COUNTRY AND YOU'RE PLANNING TO BETRAY THE COUNTRY?
MY MOTHER WAS A MEMBER OF THE LOWER CLASS OF THE NOBLE. THAT'S ALL.
LORD LENI!?
I HAVE A FEELING THAT I WON'T LIVE LONG IF I MAKE HIM MY ENEMY.
I'LL FOLLOW THE GENERAL AS WELL.


WHAT'S MORE, THE GENERAL ...

THAT'S WHY I'M GOING.
AND THE ONLY ONE WHO PLACES HIS TRUST ON ME IN THE BATTLEFIELD.
IS THE ONLY ONE WHO ALWAYS TELLS THE OTHERS NOT TO MAKE FUN OF A COWARD LIKE ME ...


I HAVE NO HOME TO RETURN TO.
AND I'VE ALREADY DECIDED TO BECOME A GREAT KNIGHT UNDER THAT PERSON.
I... I'LL RETURN TO THE COURTYARD AS WELL.

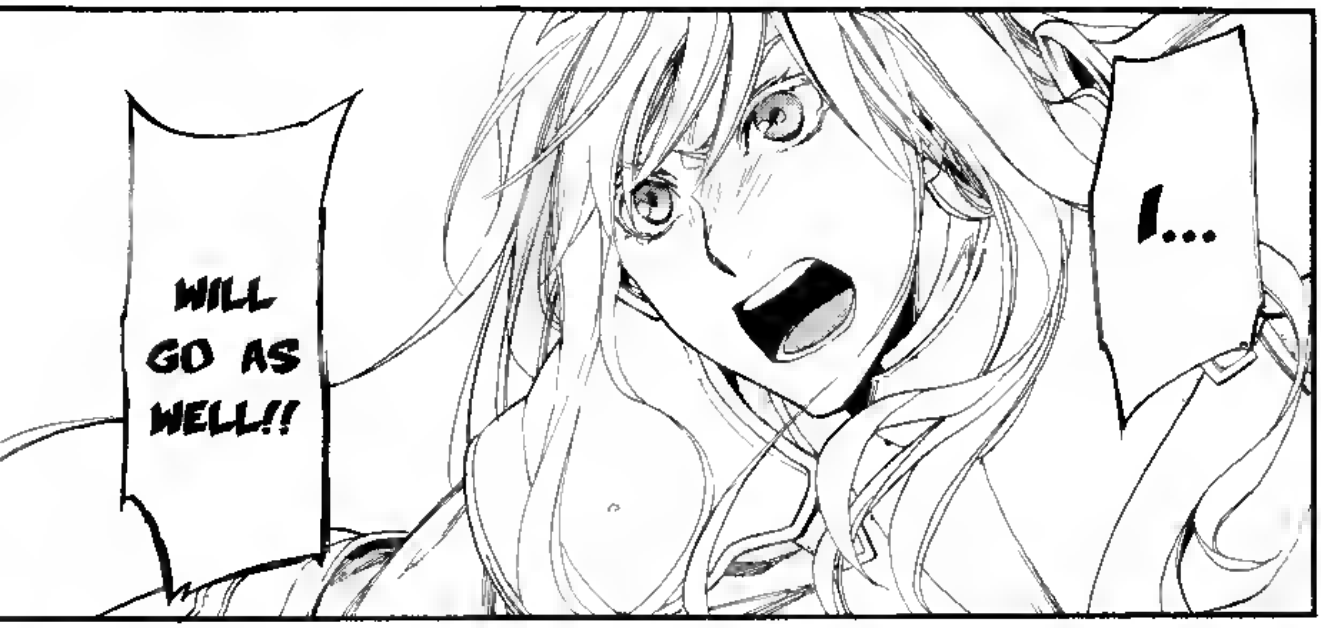
I DON'T PLAN ON BEING UNEMPLOYED.
...WELL, I DON'T HAVE ANY OTHER CHOICES.
HOW ABOUT YOU, YUURI?



.....
IT WOULD BE TROUBLESOME IF I CANNOT DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN MY ALLIES AND ENEMIES.
I HOPE YOU WOULD GIVE ME AN ANSWER SOON.
I SEE.
I...
I..I AM... A NOBLE...
AH...
ハッ
...UGH.

DON'T TELL ME... THEY'VE STARTED ALREADY?
WHAT!? WAS SOMETHING JUST DESTROYED?

LORD RAIN..


I...
WILL GO AS WELL!!

TAKE THEM DOWN ONE BY ONE!
RAIN'S SUBOR-DINATES!
YOU'RE NOT ESCAPING!!

FAIR ENOUGH.
IT'S THEM!

DON'T DIE...
UNTIL WE REUNITE WITH THE GENERAL.

RAIN
Sense Scans
www.sense-scans.com
#Sense@irc.irchighway.net
Raws: Sense-Scans
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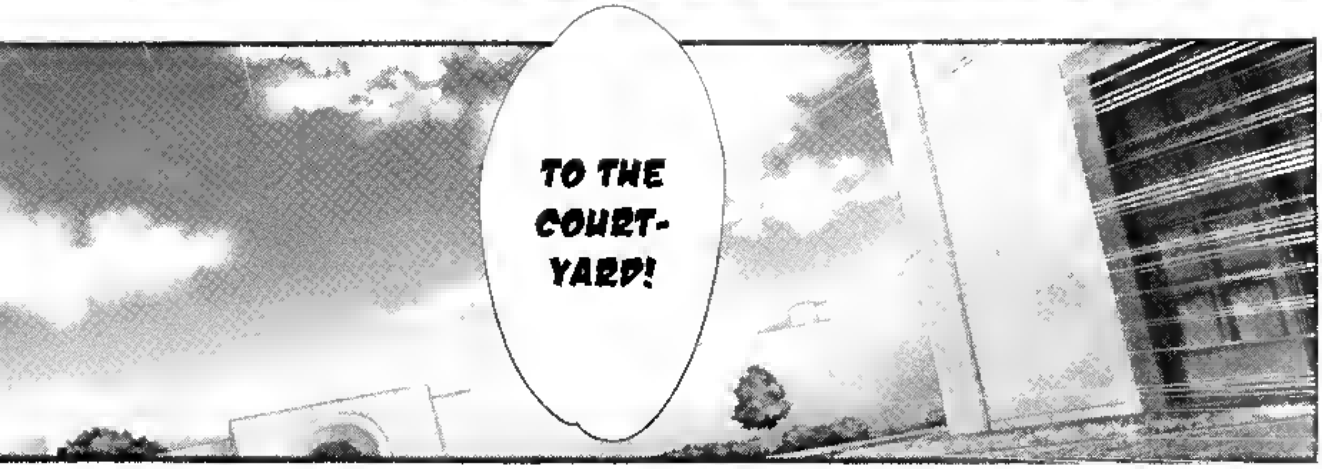
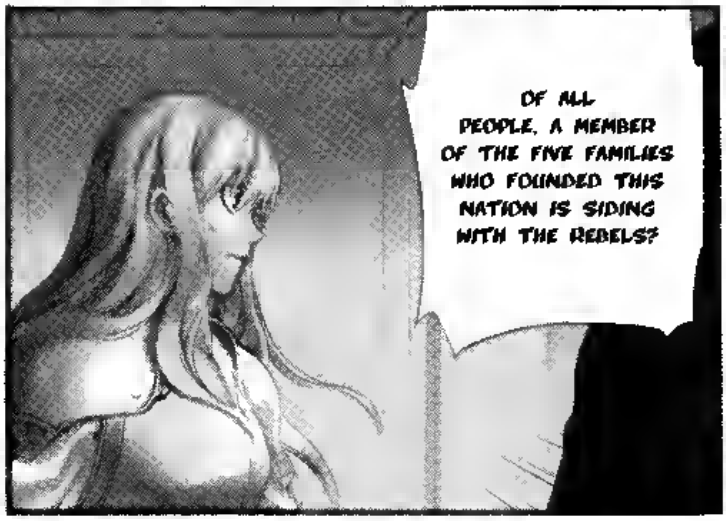
LET'S HURRY.
LET'S GO!


TO THE COURT-YARD!

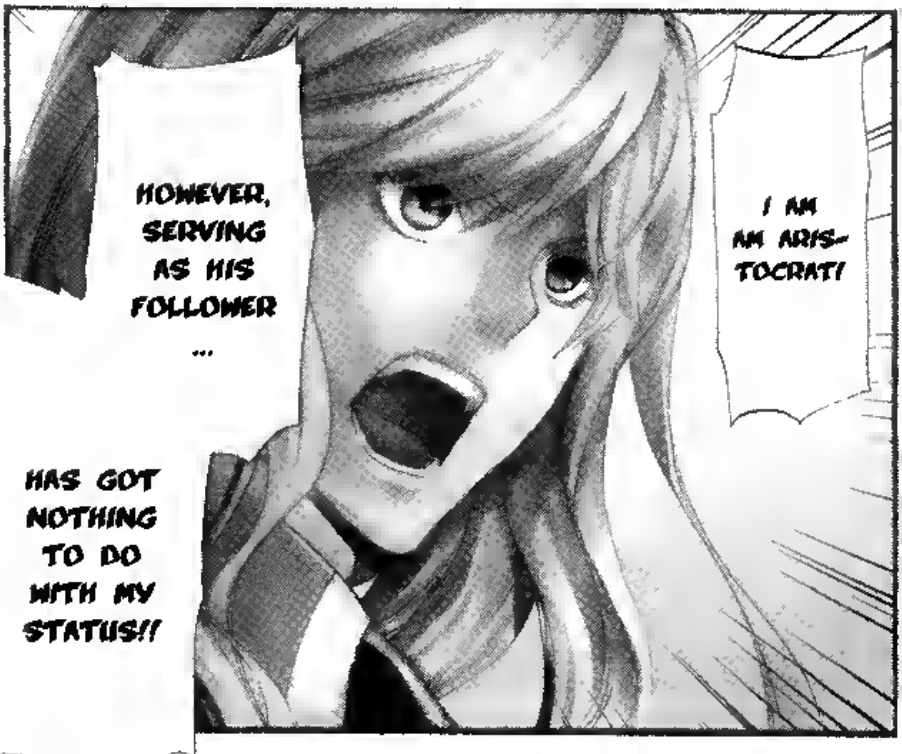
CHAPTER 16

FAREWELL TO THE ROYAL CITY.

HOLD IT RIGHT THERE REBELS!!
MM?

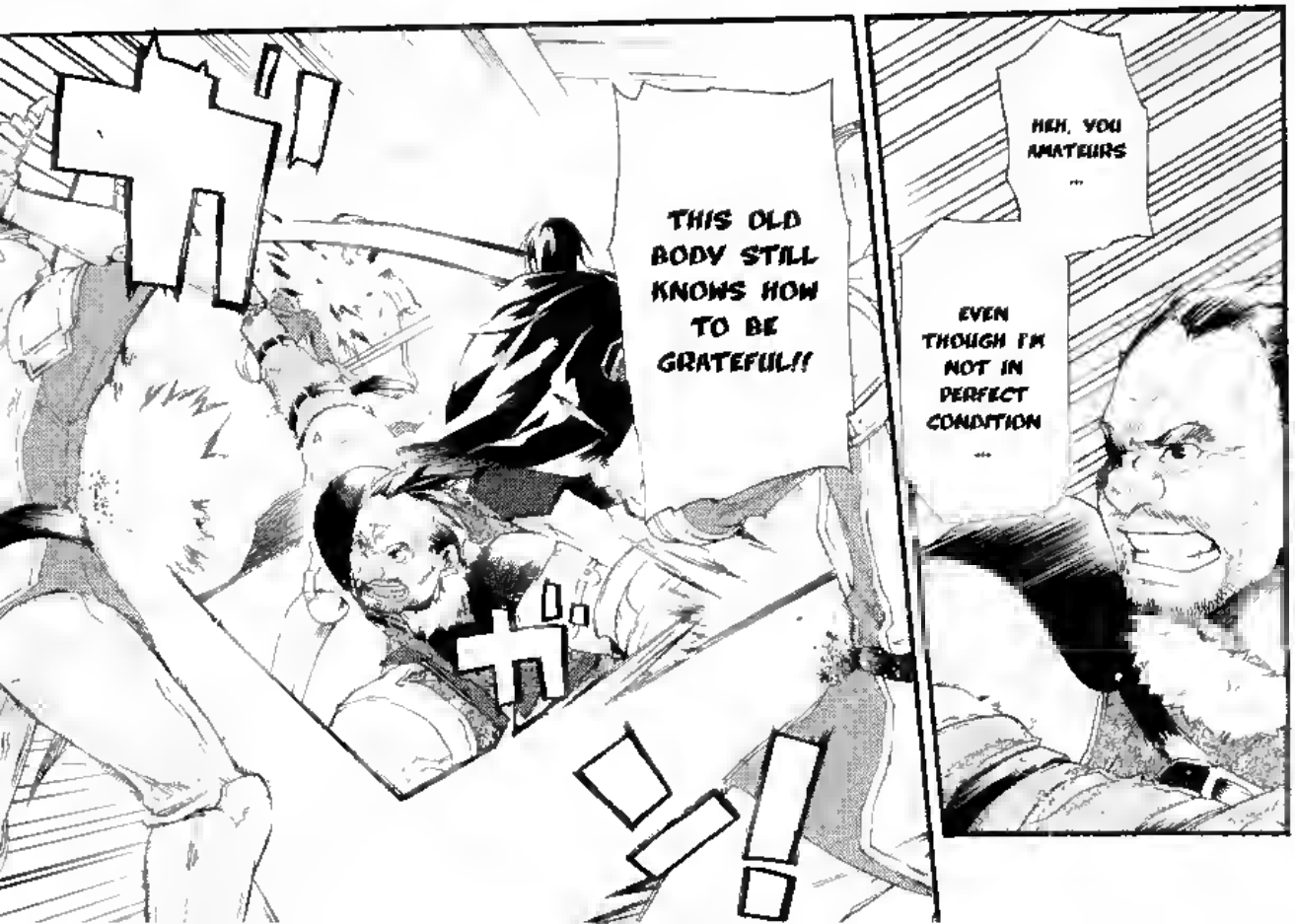

OF ALL PEOPLE, A MEMBER OF THE FIVE FAMILIES WHO FOUNDED THIS NATION IS SIDING WITH THE REBELS?

WHAT?
YOU ARE LADY SENOA FROM THE ESTERHEART FAMILY?


I AM AM ARIS-TOCRAT!
HOWEVER, SERVING AS HIS FOLLOWER ...
HAS GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH MY STATUS!!

I'LL APPRECIATE IT IF YOU DON'T MISUNDER-STAND.

DIE! YOU TRAITORS!
WHAT NONSENSE IS THAT!


THIS OLD BODY STILL KNOWS HOW TO BE GRATEFUL!!
HEH, YOU AMATEURS ...
EVEN THOUGH I'M NOT IN PERFECT CONDITION ...

This is simple!
They're way weaker than yesterday's assassins.
I can win this!
Am I ...
going to...
But ...

IDIOT!
LOOK OUT, SELPHIE!
Kill again?

I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO BE KILLED!
SEL-PHIE!
YOU IDIOT!
I-I'M SORRY.

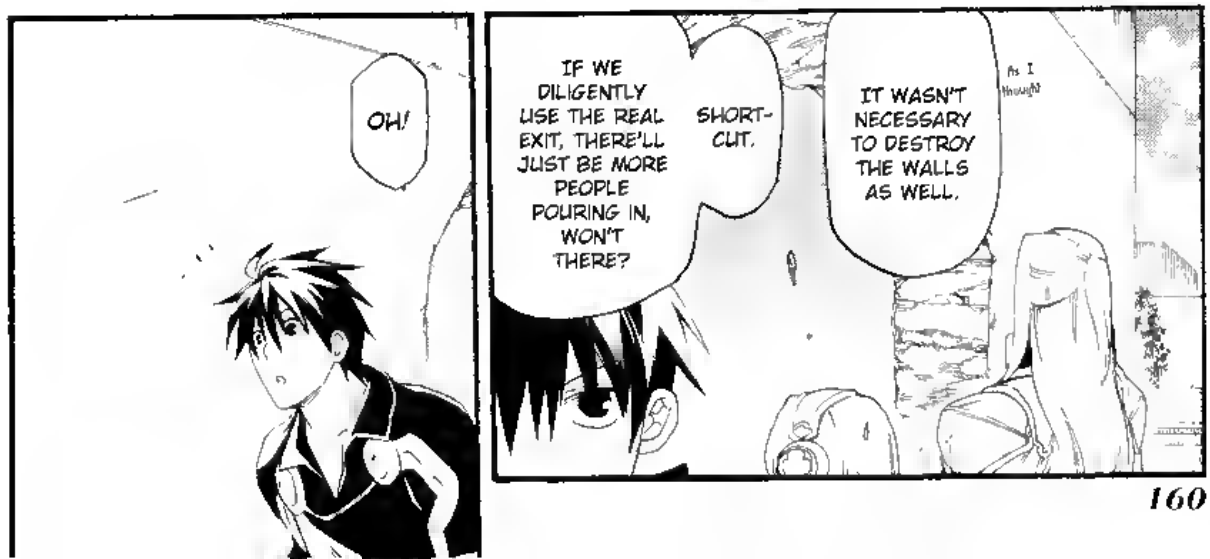
... I'm really sorry...
STAND UP.
What a powerful palm.
Even with his glove on, somehow I know....

This hand belongs to a person who has never let his sword go.

YES!
CAN YOU MOVE ON, YOUNG LADY?
KUU
GAH

ALL RIGHTY.

THAT ALL YOU'VE GOT?


OH!
IF WE DILIGENTLY USE THE REAL EXIT, THERE'LL JUST BE MORE PEOPLE POURING IN, WON'T THERE?
SHORT-CUT.
IT WASN'T NECESSARY TO DESTROY THE WALLS AS WELL.
As I thought

GUNTHER!
LOOKS LIKE YOU EXPLAINED TO THEM WELL!

YES.
EVEN SERVANTS ARE PEOPLE WHOM ONE CAN DEPEND ON.

SENOA, ARE YOU SURE ABOUT YOUR FAMILY?

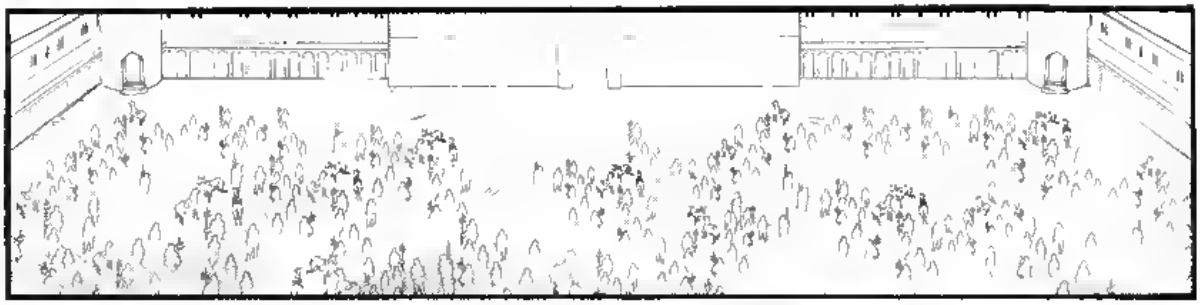
GENERAL!
GENERAL!

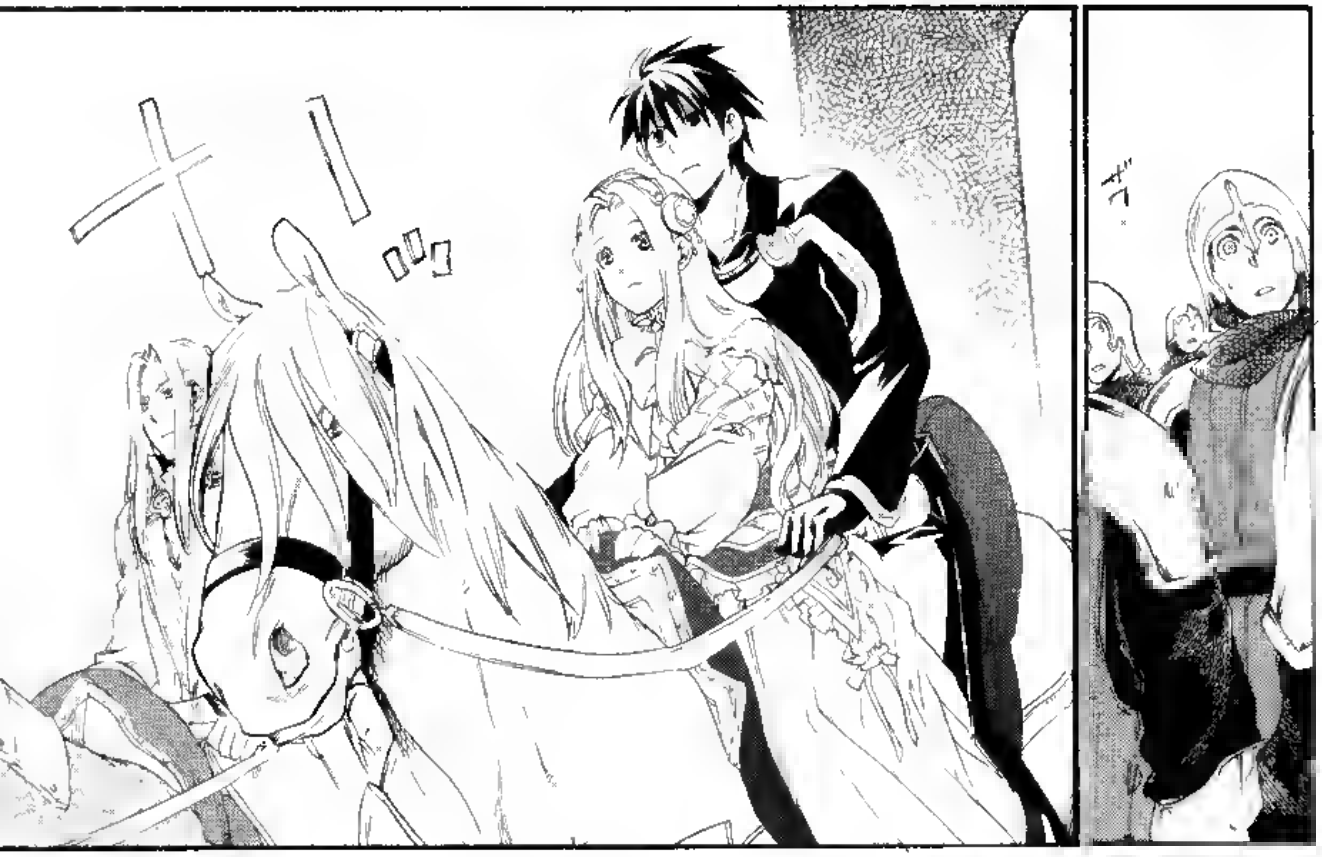
I SEE.

THE SITUATION IN THE COURTYARD IS BECOMING CRITICAL!
WE CAN FIGHT ANYTIME, BUT WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO?
AND WHAT ABOUT YOU GUYS?
ARE YOU PLANNING TO COME WITH US OR NOT?

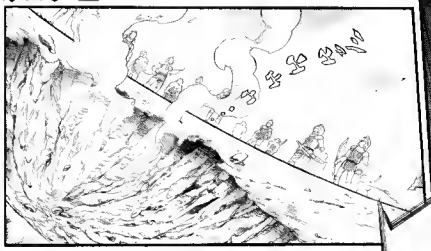
I'M OBVIOUSLY GOING!
I CONCUR.
BUT NOT WITH YOU. I'M GOING WITH LORD RALPHUS.
THE SAME AS MY LEFT.
WELL, ALTHOUGH NOW IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE THE SAME THING.
More importantly, the courtyard!

ALL RIGHT.
SHALL WE?
YEAH.

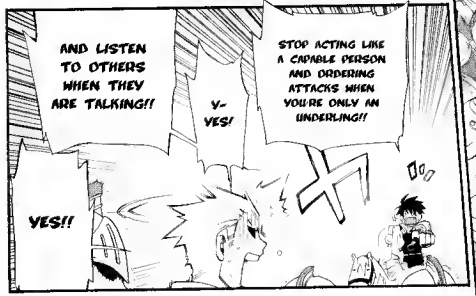




I KNOW THAT THIS IS A BAD TIME AMIDST ALL THE TENSIONS, BUT I HOPE THAT YOU WOULD LISTEN TO WHAT I HAVE TO SAY.
SHUT UP, REBELS!
ARCHERS! TAKE AIM!
SHOOT THEM TO DEATH!

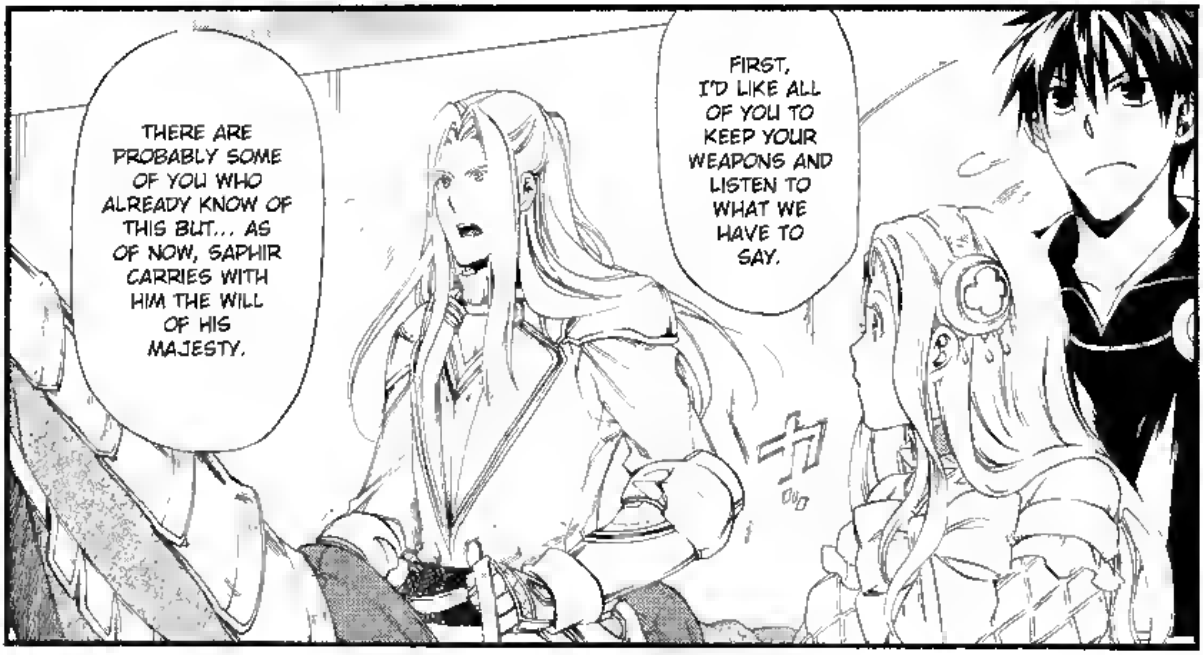


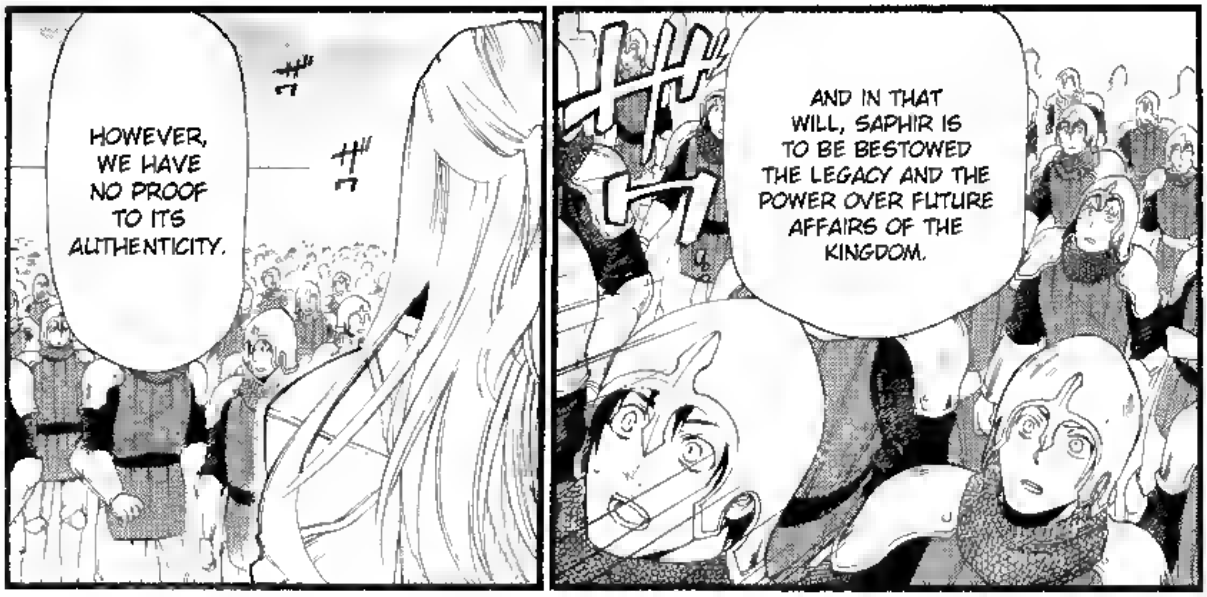
LISTEN, YOU...


STOP ACTING LIKE A CAPABLE PERSON AND ORDERING ATTACKS WHEN YOU'RE ONLY AN UNDERLING!!
Y-YES!
AND LISTEN TO OTHERS WHEN THEY ARE TALKING!!
YES!!

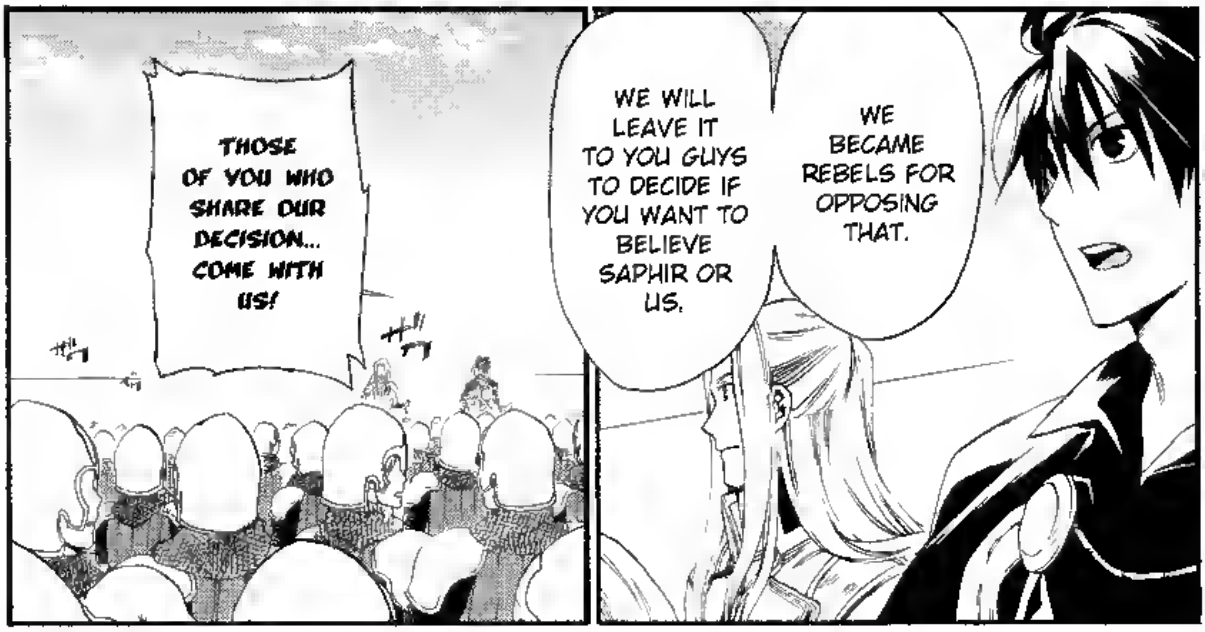
SI-LENCE!!

UH ...
EVEN IF YOU GATHER IN SUCH A LARGE GROUP, DO YOU THINK THAT WEAK ARISTOCRATS AND LOW RANKING SOLDIERS LIKE YOU PEOPLE STAND A CHANCE AGAINST US?
IF YOU STILL INSIST ON FIGHTING, I'LL BE YOUR OPPONENT.


THERE ARE PROBABLY SOME OF YOU WHO ALREADY KNOW OF THIS BUT... AS OF NOW, SAPHIR CARRIES WITH HIM THE WILL OF HIS MAJESTY.
FIRST, I'D LIKE ALL OF YOU TO KEEP YOUR WEAPONS AND LISTEN TO WHAT WE HAVE TO SAY.


HOWEVER, WE HAVE NO PROOF TO ITS AUTHENTICITY.
AND IN THAT WILL, SAPHIR IS TO BE BESTOWED THE LEGACY AND THE POWER OVER FUTURE AFFAIRS OF THE KINGDOM.

DESPITE THAT, SAPHIR USED THAT WHO-KNOWS-IF-IT'S-THE-REAL-ONE TACTIC AS A SHIELD TO GET CLOSE TO HER HIGHNESS...
AND FORCED A MARRIAGE UPON THE UNWILLING PRINCESS!

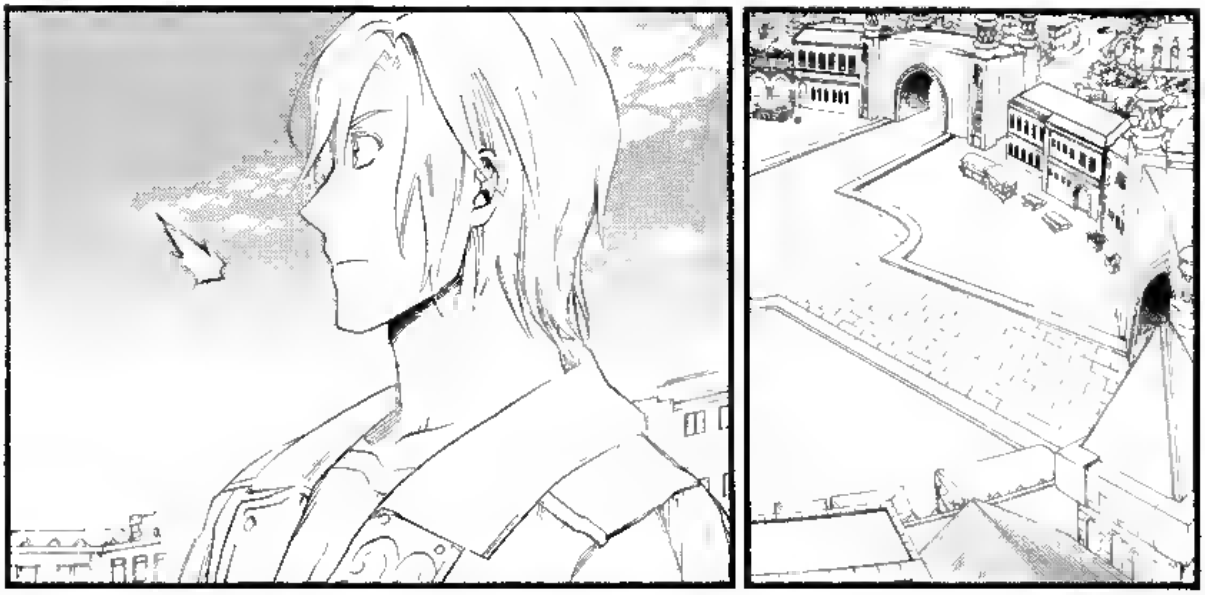

WE BECAME REBELS FOR OPPOSING THAT.
WE WILL LEAVE IT TO YOU GUYS TO DECIDE IF YOU WANT TO BELIEVE SAPHIR OR US.
THOSE OF YOU WHO SHARE OUR DECISION... COME WITH US!

THERE IS NO CAUSE FOR WORRY!

WHATEVER ANYONE SAYS, WE WILL ONLY FOLLOW THIS PERSON!!
AS LONG AS WE'RE WITH THE PRINCESS, THERE IS NO WAY WE CAN BE CONSIDERED TRAITORS!!

おおおお-!!
FIRST, WE'RE GOING TO LEAVE THIS CASTLE AND HEAD FOR COURT CLAIRS CASTLE!
LONG LIVE HER HIGHNESS!
THAT'S RIGHT! WE'LL FOLLOW HER HIGHNESS!
I'M SO ENVIOUS OF THE GENERAL!
I WANNA SWITCH PLACES WITH HIM

COME WITH US!!
EVERY-ONE!
OOOH!!!



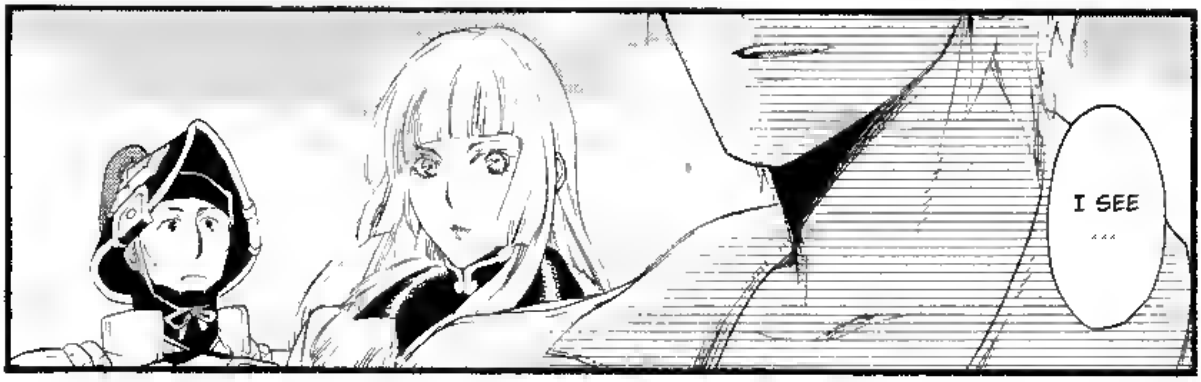
I HIGHLY DOUBT THAT.
WHAT? ARE THEY REALLY COMING HERE TO WELCOME US?

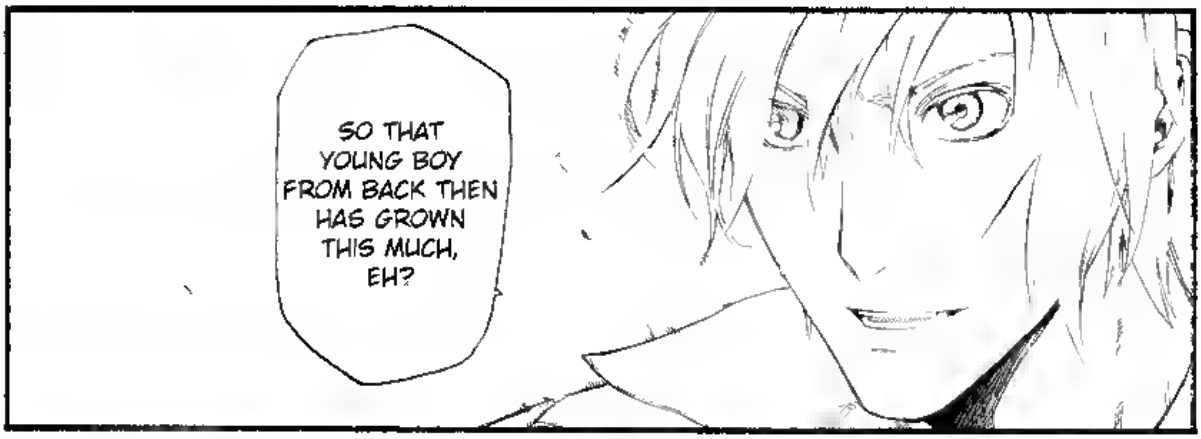
I SENSE A LARGE GROUP OF PEOPLE FROM THE CASTLE HEADING TOWARDS THIS LOCATION.
WHAT'S WRONG, JOE?

THE NUMBER EXCEEDS A THOUSAND ...
NO... THERE ARE TOO MANY OF THEM.
THIS IS PROBABLY AN ARMY OF TROOPS.

...LET'S SEE.
THERE IS ONE UNUSUAL PRESENCE AND ONE OTHER...
NO, I DON'T SENSE SUCH A TENSION.
SO THAT SAPHIR DUDE THE INNKEEPER WAS TELLING US ABOUT HAS FINALLY WAGED A BATTLE WITH THE QUEEN!
AN ARMY!?

『What's your name?』
ドドド


I SEE
...


SO THAT YOUNG BOY FROM BACK THEN HAS GROWN THIS MUCH, EH?

RAIN!

I LET IT GO...
HA
HA
HA
HA
OH!
THE ENEMY!?
THE NEW MANGA SERIES.
Don't mind him.
HE BOUGHT IT AND LET IT GO?

GENERAL! LEND IT TO ME!
It's sold out!
BUT YOU KNOW ...
THE GENERAL HAD LENT IT TO ANOTHER PERSON ALREADY I HEARD CAPTAIN LENI CRIED FOR THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS
...

RAIN
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